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FBIS-NES-89-156 CONTENTS *15 August 1989*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of Yasir 'Arafat's Uprising Message *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
4th Round of U.S.-Palestinian Talks Resume *[Tunis Radio]* 2
PLO Memorandum for Talks Cited *[AL-QUDS 14 Aug]* 3
Memorandum Presented to U.S. Side *[WAKH]* 3
Talks End; Shamir Plan Rejected *[KUNA]* 3
PNF Head on Reopening Amman Office *[WAKH]* 4
Researcher Discusses Israel Radio Arabic Service *[Damascus Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Demonstrations in Boumerdas Villages Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 6
State Secretary, French Official Discuss Lebanon *[APS]* 6

Egypt

U.S. Envoy Pickering Arrives in Cairo 13 Aug *[MENA]* 6
Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid Noted *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak Seeks To Upgrade U.S.-PLO Talks Level *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 11 Aug]* 6
PLO's Al-Surani Views Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid *[MENA]* 6
Diplomatic Sources on Improving Ties With Syria *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Aug]* 7
Mubarak Receives Message From Mitterrand *[MENA]* 7
Action To End 'Barbaric Invasion' of Lebanon Urged *[MENA]* 8
Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives 13 Aug *[MENA]* 8
Islamic Jihad Leader, 23 Others 'Rearrested' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
More on Rearrests *[AL-WAFD 12 Aug]* 8
Police Deny Members Still Held *[AFP]* 8

Libya

Jallud Receives USSR's Katushev in Tripoli *[JANA]* 9
Fatah Officials Arrive in Tripoli 10 Aug *[Tripoli Radio]* 9
Tunisia's Ben Ali Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 9
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Somali Military Delegation *[JANA]* 9
Editor Views Western 'Plot' in Lebanon *[JANA]* 9

Sudan

SPLA 'Waiting To Be Contacted' on Talks *[AFP]* 10
Garang Criticizes Al-Bashir's Islamic Agenda *[AFP]* 10
Government Reduces Spending, To Review Subsidies *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Council of Ministers To Consider 5-Day Work Week *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Council Spokesman Views 'Corrupt' Islamic Front *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Further on Former Official's Court Appearance *[AFP]* 11
Official Says Former Governors Looted Treasury *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
New Southern Region Governors Appointed *[Omdurman Radio]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Presents $6,020,000 to PLO for Uprising *[SPA]* 13
Council of Ministers Discusses Lebanon Fighting *[SPA]* 13
Foreign Minister Receives French Under Secretary *[SPA]* 13

United Arab Emirates

Council of Ministers Issues Statement on Lebanon *[WAKH]* 13

IRAQ

Saddam Telephones Lebanon's 'Awn 14 Aug *[INA]* 14
Bangladesh President Ershad Arrives for 2-Day Visit *[Dhaka Radio]* 14
Official Talks Begin 14 Aug *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
Jasim Meets Jordanian, Yemeni Counterparts *[INA]* 15
Cooperation Minutes Signed With Indonesia *[Baghdad Radio]* 15

ISRAEL

'Ubayd Held in Administrative Detention *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Rabin Cited on 'Ubayd *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Hizballah Statement Calls For Release of 6,700 *[MA'ARIV 15 Aug]* 16
Officials Warn Syrians Can Go 'Only So Far' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Aug]* 16
Peres on Lebanon Situation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 16
Moshe Arens Interviewed *[Jerusalem International]* 17
Possible Syrian Victory Viewed *['AL HAMISHMAR 15 Aug]* 17
State Pays 'Lion's Share' in U.S. Hostage Crisis *[DAVAR 13 Aug]* 18
Arens Phones Eagleburger, Ministers on Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Sends Message to UK *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Al-Saftawi Denies Meeting 'Arafat in Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
PLO Reacts 'Coolly' to Al-Saftawi Compromise *[MA'ARIV 14 Aug]* 19
Trade Official Leaves for Poland, Hungary *[HA'ARETZ 14 Aug]* 19
Editorial on U.S. Criticism of Fatah Resolutions *[AL-FAJR 12 Aug]* 20
Cabinet Discusses Unrest, Fatah Resolutions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Rabin, Meridor Clash *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
July CPI Up by 0.6 Percent; Peres Satisfied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
IDF Allowed To Shoot 'Masked' Palestinians *['AL HAMISHMAR 15 Aug]* 22
Al-Husayni Asks End to Murders of Collaborators *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Arabs Sentenced for Membership in Fatah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
14 Aug Unrest in Territories Updated *[HA'ARETZ 15 Aug]* 22

JORDAN

Government, PLO Reportedly Coordinate Over Dinar *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 24
'Source' Warns of Foreign Intervention in Lebanon *[Amman TV]* 24

LEBANON

Reportage on Continued Fighting in Beirut Area 25
More on 14 Aug Al-Dawwar Battle *[VOL]* 25
Suq al-Gharb Battle Detailed *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Syrian Losses Noted *[VOL]* 25
More on Casualties *[VOL]* 25
Syrians Said Massing Troops *[RFL]* 26
Fighting Renewed 15 Aug *[RFL]* 26
2 Killed in Eastern Area *[VOM]* 26
More on East Beirut Shelling *[VOL]* 26
Syrian Attacks Reportedly Abate *[RFL]* 26

Warplanes Fly 3 Sorties *[VOL]* 27
Leaders Cited on Situation, Cease-Fire 27
Amal's Nabih Birri *[VOL]* 27
General 'Awn's Statement *[VOL]* 27
Al-Huss Reacts *[Voice of the People]* 27
'Awn, Syrian Envoy on Situation *[Paris Radio]* 28
Shiite Leader Optimistic on End to Hostage Issue *[AFP]* 29
'Awn Reportedly Contacts Israelis; Plans Bombings *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 29
'Awn Rejects Offer To Lift Blockade 11 Aug *[VOL]* 29
Hizballah 'Political Commentary' on Solution *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 30
Phalangist Party Political Bureau Meets *[VOL]* 30
Druze Group Calls For Mobilization Against 'Awn *[VOM]* 31

SYRIA

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Damascus 14 Aug *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Further on Arrival *[Damascus TV]* 32
Velayati Remarks on Hostages *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah *[IRNA]* 32
More on Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Press Cited on Lebanon, Suq al-Gharab Battle *[Damascus Radio]* 33
More on Meetings With French Envoy on Lebanon *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 33
Khaddam Receives Cher *[Damascus TV]* 34
Press on 'Awn's 'Destructive War' in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 34

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Wakil Assails UN, Announces Diplomatic Offensive *[AFP]* 35
Government To Expand Security Belt Around Kabul *[AFP]* 36
Kabul Commander on Security *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Fighting in Nangarhar, Qandahar Provinces Noted *[BAKHTAR]* 37
Kabul Radio Cites Successes Against Rebel Groups 37
Mujahidin Kill 90 Soldiers, 1 Officer *[Islamabad International]* 38

Bangladesh

Ershad Accepts Matin's Resignation *[AFP]* 38
Pakistani Offical Discusses Bihari Repatriation *[AFP]* 38
Maldivian Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Ershad *[Dhaka International]* 39
Concludes Visit, Departs 13 Aug *[Dhaka Radio]* 39

India

Gandhi Addresses Nation on Independence Day *[Delhi TV]* 39
Soviet Vice President Meets Counterpart 14 Aug *[Delhi TV]* 43
Maldives Foreign Minister Jameel Pays Visit 43
Meets With Gandhi *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Concludes Visit, Departs *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Khamene'i Speech to Families of POW's, MIA's *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Velayati on Purpose Behind Damascus Trip *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Responsibility for Beirut Clashes Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Papers Comment on 'Ubayd, Israel, U.S. Policy *[IRNA]* 48
Papers on Hostage Crisis, U.S. Position *[IRNA]* 48
Tehran TV Comments on Hostage Issue 49
Daily Says Velayati 'Likely' To Retain Post *[IRNA]* 50
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Last Majlis as Speaker *[IRNA]* 50

Musavi Speaks to Cabinet on New Government *[Tehran TV]* 50
Kho'iniha Addresses 'Ashura Gathering *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Satellite Cooperation With USSR Discussed *[IRNA]* 54
Freedom Movement Criticizes Amendments *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 54

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Delivers Independence Day Speech *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
UK House of Commons Speaker Departs for Delhi *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Send Greetings to India *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Bhutto Condemns Attack on Bangladesh Leader *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Malaysian Defense Group Arrives for Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 56

Sri Lanka

ENDLF Urges Proclamation of Separate Nation *[Madras DINAMALAR 5 Aug]* 56
'Senior' Journalist Killed; Weekend Toll 22 *[AFP]* 56
JVP Issues Strike Call *[AFP]* 57
Delhi TV Notes 47 Killed 58
JVP Attacks Military Families *[AFP]* 58
Foreign Minister on Killing of Party Members *[Colombo International]* 58
Security Forces Arrest 133 'Subversives' *[Colombo International]* 59
Government Measures To Protect Media Employees *[AFP]* 59
Provincial Minister Lauds Indian Forces *[Delhi Radio]* 59

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of Yasir 'Arafat's Uprising Message

JN1408192289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

["Text" of message to Palestinians from Yasir 'Arafat marking the 21st month of the Palestinian uprising; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily we have granted thee a manifest victory: That God may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfil his favor to thee; and guide thee on the straight way; and that God may help thee with powerful help. [Koranic verses]

Children of the great Palestinian people; heroes of the sacred intifadah [uprising] of the stones; strugglers of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; strugglers of the popular committees and strike forces; cadres of popular bodies; children of our steadfast people in southern Lebanon and throughout the diaspora: Your blessed intifadah now enters a new month and takes ever stronger roots in minds and hearts, and the world notes with admiration and appreciation the torrential renewal of the epic of confrontation by our masses—the people of the valiant intifadah that usher in the 21st month of the heroic annals of the heroic resistance and the great confrontation. The men, women, youth, and children of the intifadah hold fast, with unconquerable resolve and unyielding will, to its martyrs and wounded and prisoners, writing the pages of glory and pride in the contemporary history of our Arab nation and all the free and revolutionary people around the world.

Sisters and brothers: Over the past weeks, you waged the national battle over our beloved land. On the one hand, with deep faith and bare hands and with the sacred stones and the strong will you withstood the mounting savagery of the occupation forces. At the same time, you continued to entrench and reinforce the revolutionary power of the people on the ruins of the occupation authorities. Then came this growing determination to confront the decisions of the Zionist occupation authorities and strike at their institutions and repressive administration. This has generated internal and external pressures and produced successive Israeli retreats in the face of an advance by the intifadah on all fronts. This manifested itself in the Israeli authorities' being forced to reopen schools while their increasingly repressive steps and measures are becoming increasingly marked by panic and fear as an expression [words indistinct] imposed on them by the heroic intifadah internally and externally and on every front.

In the past weeks, the valiant intifadah has been reaping new gains made possible by the dear sacrifices and legendary steadfastness of our people. The world's conviction that it is impossible to separate or divide our masses inside and outside the homeland has been strongly bolstered. And so the foundations of the conspiracy put forward by the Israeli Government are being undermined, as opposed to the soundness and firmness of the Palestinian position declared by the PLO and as unambiguously confirmed by the intifadah masses to the whole world.

The OAU summit held recently in Addis Ababa provided a fresh opportunity for our African brothers and friends who are waging a war against racism and exploitation to affirm their principled, constant positions in support of our people's cause as an African one. The position of certain nations in Western Europe have made substantial progress regarding the Palestinian cause. All this came as a consequence of the blessed epic of the blessed intifadah and the intifadah of a people who, with their pure blood and unique resistance, broke through all the closed doors in the world in both East and West. It has forced the international conscience to back, as a priority move, the Palestinian people's rights, thus asserting that there is no turning back from the path of the intifadah. Any effort to bring peace to the region must pass through the gate of recognizing our people's rights to freedom and independence.

O masses of the intifadah, brave strugglers, heroes of confrontation in the strike forces, cavaliers of detention camps, and heroic wounded: Yesterday the fifth general congress of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, concluded its work amid the most splendid manifestations of democracy and revolutionary commitment. During its sessions and deliberations, the intifadah was the beacon and compass and you were the most prominent among the audience. Consequently, the results came to form a new militant weapon in the hands of the intifadah. The fifth general congress of your movement, Fatah, stressed that the intifadah will continue and escalate until the attainment of freedom and independence. It stressed its rejection of the Israeli Government's liquidatory plan and underscored the Palestinian peace initiative that was proposed by our National Council in November last year, which drew up the mechanism of movement toward peace through an international conference with the purpose of seizing our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent state whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

Struggling brothers in all positions of struggle and revolution inside and outside the homeland, O sons of our steadfast people, O masses of our struggling Arab nation: The daily accomplishments and events of the intifadah are making and formulating a new equation, new features of the conflict with the Zionist fascist occupiers. This situation provides our masses with tremendous moral power, consecrates firmly-established accomplishments, and emphasizes the closeness of the day of freedom. At the same time it stirs the wrath of the occupiers. Therefore, we must expect Israeli escalation on all fronts in the coming stage. This escalation will include the implementation of large-scale attacks on the

Lebanese territories. The recent terrorist operations of the Israeli invasion forces in southern Lebanon have been their first signs and preludes. They are part of the planned war scenario. However, in view of the steadfastness of the valiant intifadah—which is entering its 21st month with loftiness, pride, and confidence—and in view of the steadfastness of our fighters and masses in the camps of steadfastness, the fascists will discover that the policy of wars and escape forward [as heard] through them is futile. And they will discover that they cannot delay for long the moment of confrontation with the plain truth; namely, that the occupiers should go away and their star is waning and the dawn of freedom is now breaking on our Palestinian land, and there will be no solution, security, or stability in the region without recognizing this definite truth.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

O hero strugglers, O sons of our sacrificing people and masses, O heroes of the Unified Leadership: In the coming stage the tasks dictated by the development of events and the development of the militant program of the blessed intifadah will be confirmed. Bolstering national unity—the firm base and certain guarantee for our victory—remains a top priority and task. Brothers and beloved ones, let us bolster the unity of our ranks which amazed the occupiers and enjoyed the admiration of the world. Unity, unity among all and for the sake of the common goal. I say all, regardless of their organizations, opinions, and political views. These include Fatah, the Popular Front, Hamas, the Democratic Front, the Communist Party, the Arab [Liberation Front], the [Palestinian Popular] Struggle [Front], the Palestine Liberation Front, the Islamic Jihad, and all political bodies, trade unions, associations, groupings, societies, the commercial, agricultural, and industrial chambers—all in one melting pot, the pot of unity, the pot of intifadah until splendid victory, God willing.

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] O heroic strugglers, let us continue what our masses have recorded in the form of strict revolutionary discipline through the calls of the Unified National Leadership. Let us feed our popular committees with further sacrifice to entrench them as popular bodies within whose ranks all national activities rally. Let us develop and raise the structure of what the intifadah constructed in the form of specialized committees in the health, agriculture, supply, popular education, and home economics fields to develop and increase the effectiveness of our popular bodies and higher councils in all sectors. Let us strengthen work through humanitarian committees to resolve people's problems. Work should continue to conclude the formation of these committees in all villages, towns, and camps. Their members should be select people who are elected by the people .

Let us, O people, expand the circle of boycotted Israeli products. Let us strengthen our ranks and increase their effectiveness. Let us affirm the unity of their formations under the banner of the Unified National Leadership. Let us deal more painful, continuous, and well-studied blows to the fascist Zionist occupation everywhere and in creative means and ways. Victory is an hour away with patience over misfortunes and confrontations.

O our heroic people inside and outside the homeland; O cavaliers of the intifadah; O bearers of the torches of freedom; O courageous ones; O female strugglers in the women's groups, youth, students, workers, agricultural, professional, academic, trade, and skilled labor; O heroes in the occupiers' detention camps: You are behaving like giants every day in the face of your jailers. O brave wounded, you rise above your wounds and create hope out of those restrictions. Wonderful and brave steadfastness in all positions and dear sacrifices have affirmed victory. The epic of the intifadah which you have written has firmly rooted our inevitable and historic appointment with destiny. With the good tidings of freedom, with its continuation, and escalation, this appointment has come nearer. It is an intifadah until the state arrives, the state of Palestine with Jerusalem its capital, the holy city.

Victory will soon come; dawn will soon break. And the state is a stone's throw away. It is a revolution until victory.

4th Round of U.S.-Palestinian Talks Resume

LD1408131689 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The fourth round of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue resumed in Tunis today. Our correspondent in Tunis reports:

At around 1240 [1040 GMT] the fourth round of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue began in Tunis. The Palestinian side is led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and the U.S. side is led by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador to Tunisia. The dialogue is being held at the request of the United States and will focus, as confirmed by some sources, on the resolutions of the recent Fatah conference. However, according to the same sources, it will deal with the issue of elections in the occupied Arab territories and the PLO's position regarding these elections. [passage omitted]

The meeting is continuing in a closed session.

PLO Memorandum for Talks Cited

TA1408131689 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Aug 89 pp 1, 4

[Text] London—Exclusive to the AL-QUDS correspondent—In the meeting with the United States in Tunis at noon today within the U.S.-PLO dialogue, the Palestinian side will present a memorandum criticizing the slowness of the dialogue and the negative U.S. reaction to the Fatah conference resolutions. A senior Palestinian source said that a Palestinian memorandum has been prepared and will be presented to the U.S. delegation at the fourth official meeting today. This memorandum stresses that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has not achieved tangible results because the U.S. Administration has refrained from putting forward any ideas that would address the issues.

The source added that the memorandum affirms the points and proposals that have been presented to the U.S. Administration during the recent period, foremost of which is the Palestinian peace initiative, which has been ignored by Washington.

As to the PLO's position regarding the election plan, the same source said the memorandum affirms the Palestinian position which was supported by all the Arab states at the Rabat summit. This position stipulates that the elections must be held in a free and democratic climate under international supervision, and that it must constitute part of a comprehensive political plan guaranteeing complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories and ensuring the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their sovereignty over their land.

Moreover, the memorandum contains a protest against the negative position adopted by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly during his meeting with 13 Palestinian notables from the occupied territories, during which the Palestinian delegation pointed out that it considers the meeting as a part of the dialogue that the United States is conducting with the PLO.

The source said that the memorandum contains a response to the U.S. statement regarding the Fatah conference, despite the fact that the official communique issued by the conference clearly affirms support for the Palestine National Council resolutions, the charter of the independence proclamation, and the Palestinian peace initiative.

The memorandum concludes with the Palestinian position on the dialogue, affirming that the negative U.S. reaction does not serve the process of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and does nothing but reinforce the Israeli Government's intransigent policy which is inimical to a just peace.

Memorandum Presented to U.S. Side

JN1508090289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Aug (WAKH)—Press reports here today said that during the fourth round of dialogue between them in Tunis yesterday, the Palestinian side presented to the U.S. side a written memorandum in which it stressed that the political statement issued by the Fifth General Congress of the Fatah Movement neither conflicts with the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions nor with the PLO's political program for peace which was supported by the recent Casablanca Arab summit.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in the United Arab Emirates, cited an official U.S. source as saying that yesterday's session of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue did not introduce any change in the two sides' positions, that the PLO adheres to its position on the elections process, and that the U.S. Administration is determined to continue the dialogue with the PLO.

Talks End; Shamir Plan Rejected

LD1408205389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1820 GMT 14 Aug 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tunis, Aug 14 (KUNA)—The fourth round of U.S.-PLO dialogue ended here Monday with the PLO delegation affirming anew its rejection (?of) Israel Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's elections plan.

Leader of the PLO delegation Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told reporters following the meeting that the proposed international peace conference remains the only access to peace in the Middle East.

U.S. Ambassador to Tunis Robert Pelletreau who led his country's delegation said the U.S. was determined to continue peace-seeking efforts on the basis of providing security for Israel in return for recognizing the political rights of the Palestinians.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the PLO did not regard elections as basis for political settlement, adding UN resolutions which asserted (?termination) of occupation and attainment by the Palestinian people of their right for self-determination were the sole means for a just and comprehensive settlement.

He said he had stressed the need for "the United States to adopt an effective role against the policy of terror practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Pelletreau said the United States would continue its efforts to realize peace on the firm principle of land for peace and recognition of Israel and the political rights of the Palestinians.

He added that top priority was given to translating those principles into a political reality, expressing hope that holding of elections acceptable to both the Palestinians and the Israelis would be as a start for political negotiations which would lead to the comprehensive settlement.

But Pelletreau underlined that achieving that goal "needs crucial decisions and careful diplomacy.

PNF Head on Reopening Amman Office

JN1208114889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] London, 12 Aug (WAKH)—Jawid al-Ghusayn, PLO Executive Committee member and president of the Palestine National Fund [PNF], has announced that reopening of the PNF offices in the Jordanian capital is firm evidence of the special Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. In a statement to WAKH in London, al-Ghusayn, who is on a private visit to London, said that preparations to open the PNF offices that have been closed since 1986 are in progress. Jordan's King Husayn agreed to reopen the PNF offices and it was discussed with Jordanian Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir in Amman 2 weeks ago.

Al-Ghusayn noted that the presence of the PNF offices in Amman will reflect positively on facilitating contacts with our kinfolk in the occupied territory and resolving their problems in a way that will help in the continuation and escalation of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] toward establishing an independent state on the land of Palestine.

The PLO Executive Committee member has described the outcome of the Fatah general congress as new evidence of the confidence placed in Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat by his organization and his people. Such confidence, he added, will give the PLO credibility in world opinion when it says that the Palestinians' endeavor toward peace is not a tactic, but a strategy.

Researcher Discusses Israel Radio Arabic Service

JN1208210089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 89

[From Palestine broadcast: "Dialogue" with researcher Husayn 'Udat presented by Bassam Ghabrah]

[Text] [Ghabrah] Dear listeners. In today's "Dialogue" I will take up the subject of the Arabic service of Israeli radio. With me to discuss the subject is researcher Husayn 'Udat, expert in media and cultural affairs with the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science. His credits also include numerous studies on culture and media affairs in the Arab states and on Zionist and Israeli media. Welcome, Mr 'Udat.

['Udat] Thank you.

[Ghabrah] If you will, what are the main features of the Arabic service of Israeli radio?

['Udat] Those who follow Israel's Arabic-language broadcasts will notice that their target audience may be broken down into three categories: the Arabs of the territory occupied in 1948; the Arabs of the territory occupied in 1967; and Arabs in the countries surrounding Israel and Arab listeners further afield, especially in Lebanon, southern Syria, Jordan, Sinai, and possibly northern Saudi Arabia. The Israeli broadcasts also take into account Jews who immigrated from Arab states, who comprise more than half of Israel's population. The majority of these speak Arabic at home in the dialect of their country of origin. All the Jews in occupied Palestine speak their original tongue at home. Those who speak Hebrew at home are a minority.

[Ghabrah] Let us talk, if we may, about the programs beamed for the Arabs living in the land occupied in 1948.

['Udat] These account for a little over 17 percent of the population of the country. The Israeli media call them the Arabs of Israel, or the Arab community. The Israeli radio makes an effort to project itself as being theirs and makes a point of trying to attract them and turn them away from tuning in to Arab radio broadcasts. The Israeli radio tries to win them to achieve many goals. For example, Israel's radio programs are formulated in such a way as to show that the bedouin and Druze are not Arabs. It always makes a point of saying the Arabs, the Druze and the bedouin. It goes out of its way to use these designations, as if the Druze and bedouin were not Arabs. It treats the Druze and bedouin as if they were distinct nationalities.

[Ghabrah] So the radio deliberately uses these terms with a view to sowing dissension.

['Udat] That is right. As if the Druze and the bedouin were separate ethnic groups having different national and cultural affiliation, notwithstanding the fact that they are Arabs. Israel's radio tries to broadcast such programs or such news items that highlight these allegations. It seeks to consecrate an unrealistic state of affairs. It also tries to highlight the activities of the municipal councils and village councils in the territories occupied in 1948—marginal activities that draw attention from the antithesis between the Arabs and Israel. The Israeli radio mostly ignores the confiscation of land. It ignores the invocation of martial law and police measures. It also fails to mention housing problems, the economic hardship experienced by the Arabs. And even if reference is made to houses, it mentions unlicensed homes but fails to make any reference to the reasons why they were built without licenses, as building licenses are withheld from Arabs. Nor is any reference made to those policies that keep Arab cities and villages from expanding or to the suffocating housing conditions under which Arabs are living. At the same time, the Israeli radio's Arabic

service ignores the activities of mayors opposed to the Israeli Government. Only marginal, insignificant activities in the Arab community are highlighted and these are dwelt upon to impress upon its audience that it cares about all Arab concerns. However, significant concerns such as housing, political rights, economic conditions, and injustices inflicted upon Arabs are glossed over. And so with land confiscation.

The Israeli radio also addresses the Arabs as communities that speak Arabic. Even when cultural programs are aired they are stripped of their national and historical context and whatever role they may serve in building the national and pan-Arab personality. In other words, programs with a national substance are turned into technical, apolitical programs that also lack any social dimension.

The Israeli radio covers activities of Arab figures who cooperate with Israeli authorities or who are not especially inimical to them, or those affiliated with Zionist parties—the Likud or Labor. Such figures are treated as influential people in the life of the country. Other figures opposed to the Zionist regime, some of whom may be Knesset members or mayors of major towns or otherwise important in the Arab community, have their activities and stands ignored.

[Ghabrah] If I may add, these need not be political figures; they may be literary figures.

['Udat] Exactly—not to mention the suppression of cultural and literary activities. All forms of ingenuity and innovation among the 800,000 Arabs are ignored as if they had no literature, art, or any other creative activity of their own.

[Ghabrah] Brothers, we will continue our dialogue this time next week with researcher Husayn 'Udat on the principal features of the Arabic service of Israel radio.

Algeria

Demonstrations in Boumerdas Villages Reported

LD1408212189 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The villages of Corso and Tidjelabine in Boumerdas Province were sealed off yesterday afternoon. The gendarmerie forces had to intervene to disperse demonstrators. Demonstrations started simultaneously in the two cities by young people. It completely paralyzed traffic so that the order-maintaining forces had to use tear gas. According to APS [Algerie Presse Service], the population is protesting, and I quote, against the action by municipal authorities concerning illegal exercise of power for the distribution of apartments, offices, and land to those who do not need them at all. [passage omitted]

State Secretary, French Official Discuss Lebanon

LD1408100389 Algiers APS in Arabic 0916 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Algiers, 14 August (APS)—Abdelaziz Khalaf, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry in charge of Maghreb affairs, held talks yesterday with Thierry de Beauce, French secretary of state for international cultural relations.

During the talks, which were also attended by the Algerian ambassador in Paris, by Foreign Ministry officials, and by the ambassador of France in Algeria, views were exchanged concerning the situation in Lebanon in the light of the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee, and the prospect of a collective Arab contribution to resolving the crisis [word indistinct] (?in Lebanon).

Following these talks, Thierry de Beauce concluded his visit to Algeria.

Egypt

U.S. Envoy Pickering Arrives in Cairo 13 Aug

NC1308213689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Thomas Pickering, U.S. permanent delegate to the United Nations, arrived in Cairo from Israel tonght for a 2-day visit to Egypt as part of his current tour of several Middle East states.

The U.S. official will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and several senior Egyptian officials.

Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid Noted

NC1408125389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—A Foreign Ministry source has stated that the United States shares Egypt's concern regarding the deteriorating security situation in Lebanon. It also joins Egypt in appealing to the Arab tripartite committee to resume its mission in accordance with the resolutions of the Casablanca summit conference.

Commenting on today's meeting between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Thomas Pickering, permanent U.S representative to the United Nations, the source said that Pickering briefed 'Abd-al-Majid on his talks with Israeli officials yesterday and on Israel's stand on the efforts to promote a settlement and start negotiations.

The source said the two sides agreed on the need to maintain the momentum of the current efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The source added that the two sides reviewed their countries' stands on all topics on the agenda for the upcoming UN General Assembly session, which begins in September. They also discussed the results of Fatah's fifth general congress. In this connection Dr 'Abd-al-Majid underlined the importance of pushing forward the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, especially now that the moderate Palestinian tendencies have deepened.

Mubarak Seeks To Upgrade U.S.-PLO Talks Level

JN1308093589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 11 Aug 89 pp 1, 23

[Text] Cairo—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned from informed political sources that the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo at the end of next week to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to reach agreement over a U.S.-Palestinian meeting. The sources said that President Mubarak handed John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, some demands to the U.S. Government, including the need to upgrade the level of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to a point where 'Arafat would participate as head of the Palestinian delegation and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as head of the U.S. delegation. The sources affirmed that U.S. President George Bush has no objections to this meeting as a necessary step to start the peace process in the region after the situation deteriorated due to the latest hostage crisis.

PLO's Al-Surani Views Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1408141389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1236 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO

Executive Committee, who is currently visiting Cairo to explain the results of Fatah's fifth general congress which concluded recently in Tunis.

In a statement following the meeting, which was attended by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo, Al-Surani said that Fatah's recent congress reaffirmed "the Palestinian peace strategy," approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC]—the Palestinian parliament in exile—during its session held last November in Algiers. He said that this Fatah stand supports the peaceful march pursued by the PLO and the clear and unambiguous line of adhering to the PNC resolutions.

Regarding the uproar raised over the inclusion of "armed struggle" in the final communique of the recent Fatah congress in Tunis, Al-Surani said that "the PLO has never stated that it has abandoned armed struggle," explaining that armed struggle is a right guaranteed by the UN Charter for all occupied nations.

Al-Surani said that by "armed struggle the Palestinians mean the one that leads to peace and a just solution. They also mean the Palestinian strategy that seeks peace and the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people through an international peace conference attended by all the parties, including the PLO." In this respect, he stressed that the Palestinians adhere to their strategy and are not prepared to abandon it, regardless of the crimes and massacres committed daily in the Palestinian territories.

Al-Surani said that an Egyptian-Palestinian summit meeting will be held prior to the nonaligned summit conference scheduled for September. In this connection, he lauded Egypt's principled stand on the Palestinian issue. He said that Egypt's stand, especially its stand on the results of Fatah's recent congress, has gladdened the Palestinians.

Al-Surani explained that his meeting with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid today was part of the constant consultations between great sister Egypt and the Palestinian people. He noted that discussions centered on the Palestinian and Arab situations, especially Fatah's recent congress.

Concluding, Al-Surani stressed that the Fatah congress reaffirmed the "Palestinian democracy" and the unity of Palestinian action. He said that the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside and in the diaspora was consolidated during the congress.

Palestinian sources said that the meeting between Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and Al-Surani dealt with the reaction which the political communique of the Fatah fifth general congress in Tunis has triggered.

In a statement to MENA, these sources said the Fatah communique adheres to the Palestinian peace plan declared by Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. 'Arafat is also chairman of Fatah Central Committee.

The Palestinian sources explained that 'Abd-al-Majid and Al-Surani reviewed issues related to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. The sources pointed out that the Palestinian side is of the opinion that the dialogue is remarkably slow and that the United States is still biased in favor of Israel. 'Abd-al-Majid and Al-Surani also discussed Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Diplomatic Sources on Improving Ties With Syria

PM1408153889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Detente Between Egypt and Syria"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian-Syrian relations will witness tangible developments and further detente in the period ahead.

They pointed out that progress toward a solution of the current Lebanese crisis would have a major impact with regard to the full resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The diplomatic sources expect an exchange of ambassadors between the two countries before the end of the year.

The coming period will also witness an intensive exchange of delegations in various fields to establish a basis for the resumption of cooperation between the two peoples.

Mubarak Receives Message From Mitterrand

NC1408161389 Cairo MENA in Engish 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 14, (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand. The message was delivered to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by French Minister of Foreign Cultural Relations Thierry de Beauce. MENA learned that the message deals with the recent French initiative concerning an end to the deterioration of the security situation in Lebanon.

Action To End 'Barbaric Invasion' of Lebanon Urged

NC1508080489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticizes the Arab League for having thus far failed to intervene effectively to save Lebanon, which is experiencing very difficult circumstances that threaten its very existence, destiny, and future, and the vicious barbaric invasion carried out by Arab parties.

In an editorial today, the paper notes there has been no serious response to appeals for salvation by Lebanon, a founding member of the Arab League since 1945, to its brothers, despite the fact that the Arab League Charter provides for protecting members facing aggression that threatens their sovereignty and independence.

The paper says that it had been hoped that the leaders of the Arab nation would hasten to convene an extraordinary summit devoted entirely to the issue of saving Lebanon before it is too late and that such a summit would issue at the very least a firm resolution calling for the immediate departure of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory coupled with a warning of effective punitive measures against all those who refuse to implement this resolution. This, the paper notes, has not happened.

The paper adds: In light of this Arab negligence, which history will not forgive, duty at least requires calling on the United Nations and its Security Council, the two parties responsible for the safety and security of all countries, to exercise their authority and shoulder the responsibility imposed on them by the UN Charter to stop this insane war that is widening every minute, even if it means sending armed international forces to put a quick end to this massacre which all other attempts have failed to stop.

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives 13 Aug

NC1308220289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli arrived in Cairo tonight for a visit lasting until 18 August.

The Cuban foreign minister said upon arrival that this is his first visit to Egypt and that it is in response to an invitation by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Cuban official added that he will discuss with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and senior Egyptian officials the most important international issues, bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, and the most important issues to be discussed at the next nonaligned summit to be held in September in Belgrade.

The Cuban minister was met at the aiport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Taha Shash, Director of Protocol Ambassador Sami Thabit, and Egyptian Ambassador to Cuba 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Halim.

Islamic Jihad Leader, 23 Others 'Rearrested'

JN1208165289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] It was learned in Cairo that the Egyptian police this week rearrested Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-... Rahman and 23 of his followers and supporters following their release by an Egyptian court.

The order to rearrest them was issued by Interior Minister Zaki Badr in accordance with the emergency regulations. The court had decided to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization in Egypt, and his followers pending their trial on charges of carrying out acts of violence during last April's riots in the city of al-Fayyum.

More on Rearrests

JN1308164089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Excerpts] In an open challenge to court rulings, Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has issued a warrant to arrest Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and all those accused of triggering disturbances in al-Fayyum following their release by the Higher State Security Court the day before yesterday [10 August]. The interior minister also issued a warrant to arrest 19 children, whose ages range from 10 to 16 years, while they were returning from a trip to al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah last Wednesday [9 August] [passage omitted]

In another development, the state security forces commanded by state security officers stormed the al-Rahmah mosque in the city of Tima in the Governorate of Sawhaj last Wednesday to arrest some wanted persons. The security forces also demolished one of the mosque's outer walls and seized fans, carpets, and a microphone device. When the security forces failed to arrest the wanted persons, they launched an arrest campaign in the city, arresting 25 people and 15 members of the Islamic Jihad Organization. The security forces also imposed a curfew on the area around the mosque and prevented the performance of prayers there.

Police Deny Members Still Held

NC1208201289 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 12 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities Friday released a blind shaykh and 54 other suspected members of the underground Moslem fundamentalist group al-Jihad, police said Saturday.

A state security court had Thursday ordered the release of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and 53 of his followers, who faced charge of bombing a theatre in the central city of al-Fayyum in April.

They were detained the same month while leaving a mosque in al-Fayyum after clashes between Islamic extremists and police. Another suspected al-Jihad member, accused of placing a bomb in a Cairo theatre, has also been released.

A police statement Saturday denied reports that the fundamentalists were still being held under emergency laws despite the court's decision.

The public prosecutor charged the group with the attempted murder in April of two police officers and a soldier, illegal possession of arms, organizing unlawful protests, using explosives and damaging public property. He called for prison terms of up to hard 'abour for life.

They were also suspected of belonging to the outlawed al-Jihad organisation, which claimed responsibility for the October 1981 assassination of former Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat, since when [as received] emergency laws have been in effect.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, the only leading al-Jihad figure cleared in trial following the assassination, was the main suspect in the attack on the al-Fayyum theatre, according to newspaper reports.

Opposition papers have said the prosecution's case against the 55 detainees was slim, while the official press reported the decision to release the group only on inside pages.

Libya

Jallud Receives USSR's Katushev in Tripoli

LD0908194789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Aug (JANA)—This afternoon, Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, who handed him a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the brother leader of the revolution.

Fatah Officials Arrive in Tripoli 10 Aug

LD1208012689 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Fatah Provisional Command secretary; Brother Abu Khalid al-'Amlad, Fatah Provisional Command assistant secretary; Abu 'Ali Mahdi Bisusu, Fatah Provisonal Command secretary; and Lebanese Party Secretary General George Hawi arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening [11 August] on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Tunisia's Ben Ali Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1308164189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1558 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Aug (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received the general commissioner of the Great Jamahiriyah in sisterly Tunisia, who handed him a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the republic of sisterly Tunisia.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Somali Military Delegation

LD0908195889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Aug (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received the Somali military delegation led by Brigadier General Muslih Muhammad Siad, commander in chief of the [Sudanese] Armed Forces. The delegation comprised Commodore Sa'id Abdullah 'Umar, commander of the naval forces and coastal defense, and Brigadier General Ziyad Dawud, commander of the air defense forces in Somalia.

The Somali military delegation handed the brother leader a written message from President Muhammad Siad Barre of Somalia. The meeting was attended by the Somali ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Editor Views Western 'Plot' in Lebanon

LD0408211289 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In a report the Voice of American radio reported that France and the U.S. urged the Arab tripartite committee not to hold its efforts with regards to establishing peace in Lebanon.

The radio quoted the French Foreign Ministry statement saying France had decided to press ahead on the road which the tripartite special committee has begun to resolve the Lebanese problem stemming from the Arab League which had announced that its two-month diplomatic efforts had reached a blind alley.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented at that by writing: "Imperialist and colonialist powers were originally behind the undermining of the social and political structure in Lebanon driven by the principle of divide and rule...

"There is also an imperialist-Zionist plot aimed at demolishing the social dimension and dismantle it causing a racial discriminations between religions..."

The editor explained that such a scheme had been prepared for years ago and was the cause of the tragedy the Lebanese live today, for they are fighting and fighting themselves after the hidden colonialist factions spread corruption in the area with care... This is confirmed by the observers who follow up the secret dealings regarding

the situation in Lebanon and Arab homeland. He said: "The colonial officials responsible for this tragedy must be tormented by the complex of guilt for committing such awful crime which inflicted far reaching damage upon the Lebanese Arab people and fragmented an Arab part known for its awareness, culture and historical originality...."

The editor asserted that the imperialist's power which are practicing the fragmentation of Lebanon practice in more than one spot in the world in the aim of weakening the nationalist efforts by nations and peoples to accomplish their unity and to build a national entity. He added that the Zionists' activities of sabotaging comes [words indistinct] of this question in order to realize their dream in building an entity for them from the Nile to the Euphrates of the account of the Arab nation.

He said "the public opinion today in demanded more than anytime before to stop the imperialist-Zionist interference in Lebanon and establish a humane situation based upon the respect of people's will an options."

The editor added, "The Arab people of Lebanon is particularly demanded to unite its efforts and give up all forms of split, discrimination, factionism and religious inclinations from which the enemy infiltrate."

He explained that the serious work and their public will to establish a free Jamahiri regime stemming from its national will is bound to insure ending all factional disputes and sensitivities which has been overcome and had become a behaviour an acceptable to the civilized human minds.... [sentence as received]

He added that the national will alone is capable of confronting and solving these problems without resorting to bargaining imposed by imperialists and colonialists interventions which made their destiny linked to the arena of international betting....

The editor concluded his commentry by saluting the stance of struggle of the Lebanese Arab people in its resistance to imperialist-Zionist occupation.

Sudan

SPLA 'Waiting To Be Contacted' on Talks

AB1408113089 Paris AFP in French 1019 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Nairobi, 14 Aug (AFP)—The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] "is waiting to be contacted" by Sudan's new military junta in order to set a date for peace talks to take place in Addis Ababa, an SPLA member declared in Addis Ababa today.

A date has not yet been set, and the SPLA thought the discussions were going to begin last week, added a member of Colonel John Garang's rebel group, who was contacted by phone from Nairobi.

The deputy chairman of the Sudanese junta, Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, in an interview published by a newspaper in Qatar on Saturday, 12 August, declared that the negotiations would begin "next week" without giving any specific date.

Meanwhile, at 1300 GMT today, Col Garang will make an "important statement" on SPLA radio, stated the guerrilla movement member, who did not reveal his identity. This statement, whose contents are not known, should have been made last Tuesday, 8 August, but was postponed to Thursday, 10 August, for "technical reasons." On Thursday, the rebel movement radio was off the air.

Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese ruling junta which overthrew the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi last 30 June, has made the search for a peace agreement with the rebels a top priority.

Garang Criticizes Al-Bashir's Islamic Agenda

NC1408173789 Paris AFP in English 1722 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 14 (AFP)—Rebel leader John Garang on Monday accused Sudan's new head of state, Brigadier General 'Umar al-Bashir, of having a secret plans to make Sudan into an Islamic state.

It was Colonel Garang's first statement condemning the new regime since a coup June 30 toppled former premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

"There is sufficient reason for concern that Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir has a hidden agenda, with or without the National Islamic Front, to impose a theocratic state on the Sudan," Col. Garang said in a broadcast by the radio of his Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) monitored here. The National Islamic Front is Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist party.

Rebels of the SPLA, formed mainly of Christian and animist people living in the south of the country, have been fighting Khartoum for the past six years. They accuse central authorities of wanting to keep the country under Muslim domination and call for the abrogation of shari'a, or Islamic law.

Col. Garang also accused the Sudanese junta of having "a hidden agenda to partition the country".

"Al-Bashir himself has said so at least three times in the last 40 days. Although this has been officially denied by the official spokesmen of the junta, there is sufficient cause for alarm", Col. Garang said. "The SPLA is totally against separation," he added.

Col. Garang denied having had contacts with the new head of state and made no mention of a starting date for talks between his movement and the junta. An SPLA representative in Addis Ababa said earlier the rebels were waiting for the junta to make the first move on setting a date.

"The SPLA has the power to shorten or to lengthen the days of the junta," Col. Garang said. "We advise Al-Bashir not to take the position taken by fundamentalists because that position is dangerous, unhistorical and alien to Sudan and to Africa."

Muslim countries which have not imposed shari'a, he said, included Egypt, Niger, Chad, Mali, Gambia and Somalia.

Government Reduces Spending, To Review Subsidies
EA1408105889 Omdurman Domestic Service Arabic 2145 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] According to the chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council Economic Committee, staff naval Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, the revolution has begun effecting an economic reform program to limit government expenditure and reduce expenses. He said the Ministry of Finance had instructed government departments to reduce their expenses by 20 percent. The salvation quarterly program would be continued and improved. The chairman said that government subsidies on some major consumer goods will be reviewed.

Council of Ministers To Consider 5-Day Work Week
EA1408110089 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1940 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary meeting at 0830 am this morning under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council. The council reviewed the problems of the national capital. Present at the meeting were the national capital commissioner general and his deputy.

The council stressed the need to provide essential services, such as transport, environmental health services, roads, and distribution of petroleum products. It also formed a technical committee to study the possibility of revising working hours and reducing the working week from 6 days to 5.

Council Spokesman Views 'Corrupt' Islamic Front
EA1208172089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council and official spokesman of the council, has confirmed that the revolution is committed to seeking a national consensus for its policies and choices of ministers and governors. He said it was earnest in its pursuit of righteousness and justice. Its aim was to set a good example for the people so that Sudan can escape from the corrupt practices of the defunct era.

In an interview with Mr Jawdat al-Basyuni, deputy director of Nile Valley Radio, Col Sulayman added that the aim of the leaders of the Revolution of National Salvation was to rescue Sudan from the pervasive corruption that befell it. [passage omitted]

Asked about allegations that the revolution is inclined toward the dissolved Islamic Front, Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman said: There are many rumors, and they are not going to stop. We will not honor them with a reply. We will be judged by the work we do. We do not believe in the partisanship which divided the Sudanese people in the past. His excellency said that the dissolved Islamic Front was corrupt. It was involved in the previous corrupt practices. Corruption proliferated in its ranks. [passage omitted]

Further on Former Official's Court Appearance
AB1408114589 Paris AFP in English 0231 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Aug 14 (AFP)—A former member of Sudan's presidential college, Idris al-Banna, has appeared before a special military court here on charges of "dishonesty and financial malpratice."

It was the first court appearance of a leading member of the regime of ousted Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi after investigations into alleged financial and administrative malpractices opened on Thursday.

Mr Banna's court appearance Saturday was not announced in advance and the press were barred. But hearing was broadcast on Sudanese television Sunday.

Mr. Banna was accused of having appropriated for his own use an oil drill donated by Libya to Sudan in 1985, and of not having returned the sum of 100,000 Sudanese pounds (7,850 dollars) paid to enable him to carry out a drilling in central Sudan.

Mr. Banna protested against the "campaign of denigration" he said had been directed at him by the state media since a junta led by General 'Umar al-Bashir seized power on June 30.

He demanded to have a lawyer to defend him and that he be granted a week's delay to find one. The court agreed and adjourned till next Saturday. [passage omitted]

Official Says Former Governors Looted Treasury
EA1108225289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] This morning in Malakal, Brigadier Pio Yukwan, National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council member and political supervisor of the Upper Nile Region, met officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the military command in Upper Nile. His excellency spoke on the current state of affairs in the country, affirming that the revolution had been staged to achieve reform, fight corruption, and secure a just peace.

Brig Yukwan said the former governors of the Upper Nile region had looted 76 million pounds annually from the state treasury, in addition to corruption in the supply of goods and relief items. His excellency affirmed that the Revolution of National Salvation was a national revolution which belonged only to the soil of this homeland.

New Southern Region Governors Appointed
EA1208175589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Summary] The chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council has appointed Staff Major General Allison Manaya Magaya as governor of Equatoria Region; Major General Andrew Makor Thor as governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Region; and Lieutenant Colonel Gatluak Deng Garang as governor of Upper Nile Region. The appointments are effective from today.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Presents $6,020,000 to PLO for Uprising

LD1408202389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1925 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Aug, (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given the PLO the sum of U.S. $6,020,000, which is the seventh installment in the Kingdom's support for the popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising], in accordance with the resolutions of the Algiers Arab summit conference.

A check for this amount was presented by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan to Muhammad Farajallah 'Isa, charge d'affaires of the embassy of the state of Palestine, during a meeting on Monday.

Council of Ministers Discusses Lebanon Fighting

LD1408193589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1835 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired this afternoon's meeting of the Council of Ministers at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

By royal directive the council reviewed reports concerning the security and political issues in the Arab region, foremost and the most important of which was the escalation of the violent fighting in Lebanon which has entered its 4th day and which has led to the deaths of scores of innocent victims and hundreds of people injured whom the hospitals could no longer accomodate in various areas of Lebanon. Added to this is the fact that there are thousands of Lebanese who, with their children, are living through difficult times in shelters without water or food, according to officials and observers.

In view of this the council expressed its profound regret, pain, and condemnation of this tragic situation being experienced by the fraternal Arab country of Lebanon despite all the successive attempts and appeals for the halting of the fighting and bloodshed.

The council renewed its appeal to all parties to halt the fighting immediately, safeguard the lives of the citizens, and allow the country to avoid this sorrowful and painful tragedy. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives French Under Secretary

LD1408202489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1940 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Aug (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal received this afternoon at his palace in Jeddah French Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Thierry de Beauce. During the meeting they reviewed the current situation in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Dr Khalid al-Jandan, head of the Foreign Ministry Political Analysis Department.

The French official arrived here yesterday evening on a visit to the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

Council of Ministers Issues Statement on Lebanon

JN1508103489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0829 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Aug (WAKH)—The Council of Ministers in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has expressed its deep concern over and dissatisfaction with the tragic developments in Lebanon, and the consequences of this devastating war between brothers in terms of bloodshed, the expulsion of the Lebanese people, and endangering their entity and existence.

This came during an emergency session held by the Council of Ministers today under Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan to discuss developments in the Lebanese situation.

The Council of Ministers issued a statement in which it says that the UAE—president, government, and people—has followed with deep concern the regrettable deterioration in Lebanon and the consequences of the random exchange of shelling between the two parts of the capital, which has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent citizens, and led to the total destruction of properties and the eviction of thousands of Lebanese from their houses and homeland to search for security in various areas.

The Council of Ministers appealed to the fraternal Arab, Islamic, and friendly states and the international organizations to assume their responsibility in full to help Lebanon, through sincere efforts, to find a quick solution to the Lebanese crisis, save Lebanon from its ordeal, extend every possible aid to restore peace and stability to it, and safeguard the unity of its people and its territorial integrity.

The Council of Ministers also calls for supporting the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with tackling the Lebanese crisis. It also urged all the Lebanese and all the parties concerned to contribute to ending this bloodshed. The Council of Ministers called on the Lebanese people to assume their historical national responsibility and resolutely confront the political, constitutional, social, and security challenges threatening Lebanon's stability, territorial integrity, and sovereignty over its national soil.

Saddam Telephones Lebanon's 'Awn 14 Aug
JN1408162489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn telephoned his brother the Lebanese prime minister, General Michel 'Awn, this afternoon.

During the call, President Saddam Husayn expressed his solidarity with the Lebanese people and praised the Lebanese people's steadfastness under the leadership of Prime Minister 'Awn.

His excellency asserted that the racist conspiracy that targets Lebanon with its evil plans also targets the present and future of the Arab nation. He also emphasized that foiling the racist conspiracy led by Hafiz al-Asad against Lebanon will foil one of the plots of conspiracy which aim, among other things, to divide the Arab nation, plant sedition, and destroy its pan-Arab values and the foundations of its national security. Furthermore, he stated that Lebanon's victory under Prime Minister 'Awn against the conspiracy means a victory for the values of Arabism and national security against the racist-Zionist-colonial alliance.

President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq strongly supports the Lebanese people under Gen Michel 'Awn against the evil divisionist and destructive conspiracy.

His excellency added: We are fully confident that the vicious attempt to storm East Beirut will promptly fail and that the suspect defeatists will be defeated and disgraced.

Bangladesh President Ershad Arrives for 2-Day Visit
BK1408131189 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] President Ershad left Dhaka on Monday morning [14 August] for Baghdad on a 2-day official visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn. He was seen off at the airport by Vice President Moudud Ahmed, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, ministers, chiefs of three services, diplomats, and civil and military officials.

President Ershad was accorded a warm and hearty reception when he arrived in Baghdad today on a 2-day official visit to Iraq. The president was warmly received at the Baghdad International Airport by President Saddam Husayn. The two leaders cordially shook hands and embraced each other in traditional Islamic way. Also present at the airport to receive the Bangladesh president were Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf and Vice Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan. President Ershad was then conducted to a specially erected dais from where he took the salute from the guard of honor presented by a smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services. The national anthems of the two countries were played and 21-gun salute boomed in the air.

The president is accompanied by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud; Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan; the deputy leader of opposition, Ehsan Ali Khan; and Mawlana Abdul Mannan, member of parliament.

Official sources said President Ershad will have wide-ranging talks with President Saddam Husayn on major global issues. The situation in the Middle East is likely to figure prominently in the talks. The two presidents will also discuss bilateral ties and possibilities of further strengthening the relations.

Official Talks Begin 14 Aug
JN1408203789 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] A round of official talks was held this evening between the Republic of Iraq and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Iraqi side was headed by the leader president, Saddam Husayn, while the friendly Bangladesh side was headed by Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The guest president expressed his personal gratitude and the gratitude of the Bangladesh people for the aid extended by the leader president, Saddam Husayn, and Iraq during the flood catastrophe despite Iraq's difficult conditions during the war.

Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad also expressed his congratulations to Iraq on the occasion of the achievement of peace.

The talks dealt with the developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two Islamic countries, which belong to the Islamic nation and which are tied together with bonds of history and culture.

The talks also dealt with means to improve relations in all fields. Also, the situation between Iraq and Iran after the cease-fire was discussed. The leader president, Saddam Husayn, explained the position of Iraq and its people which calls for the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace and rejects the continued state of no war and no peace.

The talks also dealt with issues of mutual concern.

The talks were attended for the Iraqi side by Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They were also attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs and head of the escort mission.

On the friendly Bangladesh side, the talks were attended by Home Affairs Minister Mahmudul Hasan, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and the Bangladesh ambassador in Baghdad.

The leader president, Saddam Husayn, this evening hosted a grand banquet in honor of his guest, Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Jasim Meets Jordanian, Yemeni Counterparts

JN1108141889 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 11, INA—Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, today conferred here with messrs: Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi and Nasuh al-Majali, ministers of information of the Yemen Arab Republic and Jordan.

During the meeting, Mr. Jasim reviewed with the two ministers cultural and information cooperation between Iraq and their countries.

The two ministers are in Baghdad to attend meetings of the culture and information experts committee of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Indonesia

JN1008202289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Text] Iraq and Indonesia today signed joint minutes of economic, trade, and technical cooperation after meetings of the Iraqi-Indonesian joint committee ended.

The minutes include an agreement between the two countries on a group of lists of commodities exchanged between them, and the means of reactivating trade, participating in international exhibitions, exchanging visits and expertise in the agricultural and veterinarian fields, and of benefiting from training opportunities in both countries.

The minutes were signed for the Iraqi side by the director general of the foreign economic relations department at the Ministry of Trade, and for the Indonesian side by (Bodji Kot Caros), director general of foreign economic relations at the Foreign Ministry.

'Ubayd Held in Administrative Detention

TA1508043389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Israeli officials say that Shaykh 'Ubayd is being held in the country by administrative order. They said the first order was for 15 days in detention, and the second order has now been issued for 6 months. Officials say that 'Ubayd is eligible to retain an attorney, who can appeal the detention.

Rabin Cited on 'Ubayd

TA1508112589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin appeared today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Ze'ev Kohen reports from our Knesset studio:

The agenda included the affair of the administrative detention order against Shaykh 'Ubayd. Rabin confirmed that such an order has been issued, that the shaykh has the right to appeal to the High Court of Justice, and that all legal avenues are open to him.

As for THE SUNDAY TIMES report on the death of Fink and Alshekh, the defense minister said that efforts are being made to find the defense establishment persons who leaked information on the matter. Many people were involved in the affair, said Rabin. He rejected the use of a lie detector.

Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman, said that he does not accept the defense minister's explanation that in this vital life-and-death issue, persons responsible for leaking facts cannot be found and that this reflects the decay and corruption in the defense establishment. MK Ben-Elisar demanded an investigation. MK's Sara Doron and Yosi Sarid shared Ben-Elisar's views. [passage omitted]

MK Avraham Burg warned the defense minister not to allow Israel to sink again in the malodorous quagmire of Lebanon. He feared that we are very close to intervention in Lebanon.

Hizballah Statement Calls For Release of 6,700

TA1508070789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Aug 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay and Washington correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpt] The Hizballah Shiite movement yesterday issued a statement differentiating between the Israeli POW's and other hostages.

The statement includes a demand that Israel to initially release 6,000 Palestinian and 700 Lebanese detainees, including Shaykh 'Ubayd and two of his relatives. The Hizballah leadership is due to leave for Damascus to discuss the matter with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived in Damascus yesterday on an official visit. [passage omitted]

Officials Warn Syrians Can Go 'Only So Far'

TA1508063789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Dan Petreanu and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Israel yesterday stepped up its diplomatic efforts to create Western pressure on Syria to cease its "genocidal" onslaught against the Christian population of Beirut. [passage omitted]

Officials in Jerusalem denied that Israel had sent Syria any message through Pickering or any other third party. The officials told THE JERUSALEM POST that Israel's public attacks on Syria are, however, intended to counter what Jerusalem believes is the Syrian assumption that Israel's traumatic 1982-85 invasion and occupation of Lebanon has "removed us from the Lebanese arena."

"The Syrians should know that there is only so far they can go in Lebanon, especially regarding any designs they might have of expanding further south," the officials said.

Defense Ministry officials, however, refused comment on any deliberations regarding operative Israeli measures in case Syria expands the scope of its activities. [passage omitted]

Peres on Lebanon Situation

TA1508085089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Israel does not intend to intervene in the events in Lebanon. We left Lebanon with the intention of never returning there. These remarks were made by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during a visit to Qiryat Shemona this morning.

Peres said he is not surprised at the Syrians' ruthlessness, as it is reflected in Lebanon. He added that the Christians, on the other hand, have shown resilience in the confrontation with Syria.

Responding to a question from our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, Shim'on Peres further said that he is not impressed by the remarks of Hizballah leaders, because this kind of idle talk has never reflected reality. He added that he does not foresee any immediate or quick developments in connection with a possible exchange of the Israeli soldiers in the near future.

On another issue, the vice prime minister said that he would check with the security forces on ways to protect civil workers whose jobs involve travel in the territories.

Moshe Arens Interviewed

JN1508120289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0950 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Report on interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on 15 August by radio correspondent 'Umar Zaydani carried within "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is holding intensive contacts with his counterparts in France, Italy, and Spain, as well as the U.S. assistant secretary of state and Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni on the tragic situation in Beirut. He said the civilized world should take the appropriate measures to stop the Syrians in Lebanon, especially in Beirut, where a tragedy of huge dimensions is taking place and scores of people are killed daily as a result of the Syrian shelling. He said if the Syrians are addressed in the language they understand, it is possible to halt this destructive action. This is what Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says in an exclusive interview with the With the Events program.

Foreign Minister Arens says Syria has been notified of the dangerous situation as the Syrian ambassador in Rome has been summoned to the Italian Foreign Ministry. The United States is holding direct contacts with Syria on the situation in Beirut. President Mitterrand has also sent a special envoy to Syria. However, these messages to Syria are not firm enough to convince Syria to halt the destructive action in Beirut.

The foreign minister refused to reveal whether Israel has conveyed a message via a third party to Syria on the situation in Beirut. However, he said Syria has begun to understand what Israel's stand is on the events in Lebanon, especially in Beirut. The foreign minister expressed astonishment at the world's stand on the massacres in Beirut, which have reached an extent necessitating a unified stand by the civilized world to make the Syrians realize that they must halt their operations in Lebanon.

On whether there is an Israeli red line regarding the events in Lebanon, the foreign minister says the issue is not one of red lines as the Syrians crossed the red line a long time ago. He says they must now halt the shelling and acts of killing.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says the events in Beirut did not affect the ongoing contacts to release the hostages. Syria, Arens says, must halt the acts of killing in Beirut and cooperate with Iran to release the hostages.

Possible Syrian Victory Viewed

TA1508110689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 89 p 7

[Commentary by Avi Bnayahu: "Watching From the Sidelines"]

[Text] Israel has been closely following the battle raging in Beirut between the Syrian Army and Michel 'Awn's Christian forces. As far as it is concerned, the outcome of the fighting could be very significant in everything pertaining to quiet on our border, the internal balance in Lebanon, and the deployment of troops in the Middle East.

After 6 months of unsuccessful attempts to crash the Christian enclave and annihilate 'Awn's government with its cannons, Damascus decided to resort to massive force and launch an all-out offensive by land. The Syrians did not score any points in the first 24 hours of the fighting, and 'Awn's army has been showing more resistance than expected. Nevertheless, everybody agrees that if Al-Asad persists in his determination and uses his full firepower against the Christian positions, he will ultimately tip the war in his favor.

All in all, Israel has been on good and speaking terms with the Christians in Lebanon. As far as it is concerned, a victory by the Syrian ruler over the Christian enclave would entail both advantages and disadvantages. Al-Asad's wish to accord Syria maximal strategic domination over Lebanon could be to Israel's advantage, because Al-Asad would then be the man for Israel to address concerning all the elements operating in Lebanon. As is known, Israel's problem with "the land of cedars" today is the absence of a clear address or central regime. There is simply nobody to talk to, point an accusing finger at, or punish.

Full Syrian control over Lebanon may restrain the hostile Shiite organizations, such as Hizballah. President al-Asad is notorious for his tyranny, and that being the case, we could hold him responsible for everything occurring under his jurisdiction.

The realization of al-Asad's long-standing dream of attaining hegemony over Lebanon may be hindered by two main obstacles: strong pan-Arab pressure supported by a Soviet, and perhaps also French, demand to cease the fighting or, alternatively, the more conspicuous intervention of the Iraqi Army on the side of the entrenched Christian forces. Not too long ago, we witnessed Saddam Husayn's willingness to help the Christians, when he tried to send ships loaded with missiles and war materiel to Lebanese ports. The Syrians sailed half of their Navy southward and sabotaged the attempt. In spite of this, the Christians have Iraqi tanks and missiles in their possession.

Iraq's entry into the Lebanese arena and the possible transfer of troops to Beirut at a later stage would be very significant and detrimental to Israel.

Israel's top defense officials are well aware of all the implications and of the fact that in the event of a war, Syrian domination over vast parts of Lebanon would mean a lengthy battlefront with the Syrian Army, beginning south of the Golan Heights, through the Hermon mountain ridge, and along the entire Lebanese border all the way to the sea.

We should not forget that the Syrians have been keeping large forces in Lebanon on a permanent basis and that 3 years ago they built tank ditches in the central sector, in the area from which the Israeli Army withdrew.

Israel is currently watching events from the sidelines, from only few dozen km away, and is trying to caution about the massacre of the Christians by the Syrian Army. In light of the painful experience of its involvement in the Lebanese quagmire, Israel has for the time being opted for not taking any real steps. Nevertheless, its top defense officials will presumably not let the Syrians cross any "red lines," which none of them is hastening to define, at least not in public.

Such a "red line" could be, for example, Syrian aerial activity in areas where the Israeli Air Force flies at present in order to gather intelligence. Another "red line" could be the stationing in the vicinity of Beirut of surface-to-air missiles which would jeopardize our aircraft, and other similar developments.

The situation emerging in Lebanon with the collapse of the internal balance and the annihilation of the Christian-Iraqi force presents Israel with a problem. It is to be hoped, however, that the lessons of the Lebanese war have been learned thoroughly and that General 'Awn will not succeed in dragging Israel into another adventure.

Thus, Israel is forced to watch helplessly in the face of the ruthless massacre of the Christians in Lebanon and control its desire to put an end to it. Our national interest must be stronger than any other desire, bearing in mind the lesson that even when a large and powerful standing army mercilessly strikes at innocent civilians, the world stands idly by. And this time, it is closer to us than ever before.

State Pays 'Lion's Share' in U.S. Hostage Crisis

TA1308114289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Aug 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Collect-Call Policy"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens took pride in the direct telephone line he inaugurated with his counterpart James Baker. Binyamin Netanyahu, his deputy, basked in the fresh lease on media life he was given after many months of virtual disappearance from the public eye: He was photographed profusely as the head of an information team, and was shown either at his desk or on the TV screen. Arens and Netanyahu were so successful in improving Jerusalem-Washington ties that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was forced to contact President Bush and hold a 10-minute-long conversation with him to ascertain that everything was still all right.

During the 1st week of the hostage crisis, which was removed from the deep freeze with the abduction of 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Bush contacted the whole world: the pope, King Fahd, practically everyone. Except for one person: Shamir. The initial furor in the United States over Israel allegedly putting Colonel Higgins' life in danger—a shallow outlook—was admittedly replaced by understanding for its motives, but Bush does not regard the development as an opportunity. He sees it as a problem. The crisis is not on the verge of solution. It may be a prolonged affair followed closely by the news-hungry media, insistent on demands for explanations from the administration. The President had originally planned to spend most of this month at his summer residence in Maine, when Israel spoiled his plans. Now, even if he decides to go ahead with, rather than cancel his initial plans, and explains to the nation that the kidnappers must be shown that America will not fall into their trap and cannot be forced to change its course, the press will be badgering him and other administration officials with nagging questions about how he can enjoy himself while his poor fellow countrymen are languishing in Hizballah's dungeons.

Public criticism of Israel is not in itself an unequivocal indication of a real rift between the Bush administration and the Shamir government. The haggling over the hostages goes on as a game being played on two levels: one public, with each party having a clear-cut role; and the other secret. It was therefore only natural for Marrack Goulding, the UN under secretary general, to allow himself to chastise Israel for its ministers' loquacity. Without getting into the question of whether or not his reprimand was justified, it is the duty of the United Nations to present an image of itself to both the kidnappers and Iran as being removed from Israel.

This is doubly true in the U.S. context, as Bush wants to enjoy the fruits of Israel's abduction of 'Ubayd, without portraying U.S.-Israeli coordination as being too cozy and intimate. If the Israeli Government found that Washington's raps were complemented by a wink—as though they were just another declaration along the lines of the ones in which it confessed to having no specific information on the whereabouts of the hostages, only to better conceal details and updated intelligence on an upcoming rescue operation—that would have been fine. But the four-member team in Jerusalem handling the crisis, consisting of Shamir, Arens, Rabin, and Peres, was countered by another foursome, comprising Jewish leaders who huddled with Bush in the White House and exited through a back door to avoid a public admission of the President's dismay with Israel.

This chagrin cannot be smoothed over in a brief and courteous phone call from Yitzhaq to George. This is bound to be a collect call for Israel, because the Americans are expected to exact a political price in solutions to the Middle East problems. The hostage crisis, which has reached a peak recently, is still not the toughest issue. Far more broad and complex—and likewise damaging to Israel by virtue of its close proximity to the hostage affair—is the peace process. This was first bogged down due to the Likud Central Committee's resolutions, and has now been dealt a further setback in the form of Fatah's resolutions. The slight similarity between the conditions Sharon imposed on Shamir, and those imposed by Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir] on 'Arafat will not work in Israel's favor: The anger at the two parties' political moves will not be translated into parallel measures. Thus, when the time comes to pay the bill, and not just the telephone bill, Israel will be asked to pay the lion's share.

Arens Phones Eagleburger, Ministers on Lebanon

TA1408173189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens spoke on the phone this evening with the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Italy about the situation in Lebanon. Minister Arens also spoke to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, asking him to convey the content of his message to Secretary of State Baker, who is currently on vacation. Minister Arens also spoke to Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Arens voiced his serious concern about the Syrian activities, pointing out that every hour could be critical for the civilian population of Lebanon. The civilized world must make it clear to the Syrians that they cannot go on with the killing, because a dangerous precedent is emerging whereby a massacre can be carried out without encountering any reaction on the part of the international community, Minister Arens said.

The foreign ministers replied that they are worried about the situation in Lebanon and are looking for a way to cease the killing. They also promised to keep in contact with him on the issue of Lebanon.

Sends Message to UK

TA1508110989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today asked Britain to take action on the issue of Lebanon. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a message to his counterpart, John Major, Foreign Minister Arens wrote that neither a state nor a culture should accept the continued Syrian attack against Lebanon.

Our correspondent notes that yesterday, the foreign minister appealed to other European foreign ministers on the same issue.

Al-Saftawi Denies Meeting 'Arafat in Cairo

TA1308165189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] As'ad al-Saftawi, one of the most prominent figures in the Gaza Strip, was summoned to the regional Civil Administration offices this morning. In the meeting, Al-Saftawi emphasized that all his talks in Egypt with Egyptian and Palestinian representatives had been unofficial. According to him, the PLO is studying his proposed peace plan, which constitutes a compromise between the initiative of Shamir and Rabin and the PLO's position. Speaking to our correspondent Moti Amir, Al-Saftawi denied that he had conferred with 'Arafat in Cairo. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 13 August adds that al-Saftawi also denied "that he had participated in the Fatah conference in Tunis."]

PLO Reacts 'Coolly' to Al-Saftawi Compromise

TA1408100289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Aug 89 p A2

[Report by Shefi Gabay and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] A radical bloc is emerging in the PLO opposing the historic leadership of Yasir 'Arafat in view of his concessions to Israel and the United States. This observation was made by Shaykh As'ad al-Saftawi, a prominent Gaza Strip figure, in a conversation with Arab media. As'ad al-Saftawi had proposed a plan of his own for a dialogue, the goal of which was to bridge the Israeli and Palestinian stands. [passage omitted)

According to reports received yesterday in East Jerusalem, the PLO reacted coolly to al-Saftawi's proposal for the promotion of the election initiative in the territories. [passage omitted]

Al-Saftawi denied that he had traveled to Tunis. He added that in his opinion, the PLO is studying the compromise plan he had submitted to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It has been learned from sources in East Jerusalem, however, that PLO leaders did not view al-Saftawi's personal initiative sympathetically. According to the sources, the PLO would prefer to attain a compromise solution of its own, rather than go along with compromise initiatives raised by notables from the territories.

Trade Official Leaves for Poland, Hungary

TA1408114089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 89 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Zrahya]

[Text] Yoram Blizovsky, director general of the Industry and Trade Ministry, left yesterday for Poland and Hungary.

Blizovsky will confer with Polish and Hungarian Government officials, bankers, and businessmen and discuss the promotion of trade between Israel and the two countries.

Sources at the Industry and Trade Ministry said yesterday that trade relations between Israel and Poland have de/eloped satisfactorily in recent years. In 1988, Israeli exports to Poland totaled $6.8 million, while imports from Poland stood at $13.8 million. These figures include both direct and indirect imports and exports. Part of the trade is carried out through the Polish ITALMEX company, some of whose activities are recorded via Italy.

In the first half of 1989, Israeli exports to Poland grew considerably, amounting to $13.6 million. Imports from Poland in the same period stood at $11.9 million.

Israeli exports to Hungary in the first half of 1989 totaled $6 million, while direct and indirect imports reached $17 million. Direct exports to Hungary in all of 1988 stood at $9.5 million, and direct and indirect imports amounted to $39 million.

Editorial on U.S. Criticism of Fatah Resolutions

TA1508145089 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Aug 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Resolutions of the Fatah Conference Are Constructive and a Reinforcement of Peace"]

[Text] Before receiving the full text of the resolutions of the Fatah movement's fifth conference, the U.S. Administration, through State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, hastened to declare that, as she put it, the "derogatory" rhetoric against Israel; the tone of confrontation and violence characterizing these resolutions; and the preference for unrealistic solutions emanating from these resolutions, instead of practical ideas for peace, are unhelpful.

Did the U.S. Administration, then, expect the Fatah conference to agree to Shamir's plan on holding elections in the occupied territories?

In other words, did the U.S. Administration expect Fatah to tighten the noose around the Palestinian people in order to satisfy the insincere and unjust U.S. wish for Fatah to appear moderate and, consequently, make concessions in return for nothing?

Since its inception in the mid-sixties, Fatah has raised a slogan which later on became one of its most sacred principles, that is, noninterference in the affairs of other countries, on the assumption that others will not interfere in its own affairs. The Fatah resolutions are a Palestinian concern. They were adopted on the basis of a clear perception and careful study of the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The conference resolutions, which emerged after debates and discussions lasting 1 whole week, not 1 night—unlike the show conference held on 5 July [date of the Likud Central Committee session which adopted the so-called hardline braces]—reflect the sincerity of Palestinian feelings toward peace and the commitment by Palestinian decisionmakers to peace and its causes.

The conference opened the door wide open to the Palestinian peace initiative and expanded the horizons of the diplomatic movement by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Fatah Central Committee and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. This is in complete contrast to what was described by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman.

Cabinet Discusses Unrest, Fatah Resolutions

TA1308123289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Sunday is cabinet day. The affair of the hostages, POW's, and MIA's in Lebanon was raised in the cabinet, but as part of the Ministerial Committee on Defense Affairs, whose deliberations are confidential. The cabinet also debated less sensitive issues. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

One of the issues raised at the meeting was the intifadah [uprising]. The ministers heard a security report from which it can be inferred that there has recently been a significant decline in the number of violent incidents and riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said in the meeting, and later told us, that with the decline in the intifadah there is an increased need for a political solution:

[Begin recording] [Ya'aqobi] I am referring to two remarks made in the cabinet—first, that there has been a decline in international interest in the intifadah. In other words, the international media has shown less interest in events in the territories. Second, I expressed my opinion that what we have is a situation that might lead to a dramatization or radicalization of events in order to attract more attention by the international media so as to keep the issue in the headlines.

[Golan] What conclusion have you drawn?

[Ya'aqobi] I believe we must be prepared for such a possibility and that we must certainly intensify our efforts to make progress in the political field—that is, to invest greater efforts in the political initiative. [end recording]

Minister Ya'aqobi added that the resolutions adopted by the Fatah conference must drive Israel to advance the peace initiative. Ministers Ehud Olmert, Moshe Shahal, and Dan Meridor referred to the Fatah conference and the resolutions adopted there. The three view the Fatah

resolutions as a significant radicalization, while Ministers Olmert and Meridor reiterated their position that the PLO is not a partner to negotiations. Minister Olmert told the meeting that the issue is not whether we are threatened by the PLO resolutions, but that these extremist positions must be made known because there is an important information element which must be exploited. Olmert said the Americans were quicker than us in their response to the Fatah conference, and added that certain security elements were in no hurry to react.

Here is what Justice Minister Dan Meridor told us after the meeting:

[Begin Meridor recording] The peace initiative was not aimed at Fatah. Therefore, the Fatah resolutions have no influence on the peace initiative, but they must have an influence on naive or mistaken people in Israel who thought that 'Arafat was more moderate. Whoever reads these resolutions sees that they are the gravest ones approved by the terrorist organizations in recent years. We must take note that they did so at a time when they have a clear interest in appearing moderate, but are incapable of it. They call the establishment of the State of Israel a crime; they call the division of Falastin in 1948 a crime that led to the establishment of the Jewish state. They in fact call for the destruction of the Zionist entity.

If there is still anybody in Israel who has deluded himself into thinking that negotiations with these people are possible, God has shown him what the real situation is. There is no possibility of a political initiative in which Fatah or the PLO takes part. There is a chance, if there are people in Judaea and Samaria who understand that they must take their fate into their own hands and talk with us. [end recording]

On another note, the cabinet approved foreign travel for five ministers. Ministers Peres and Arye Der'i are going to Switzerland, Minister Shahal is going to Hungary, Minister Pat to Paris, and Minister Edri is traveling to Spain.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 August reports that "the fighting in Lebanon was raised at this morning's cabinet meeting. The foreign minister said Syrian shelling, which does not distinguish between armed fighters and civilians, is unprecedented. Our political correspondent Arye Golan quotes Arens as saying that beyond the human tragedy, the Syrian shelling creates a dangerous precedent in that it lacks any consideration of the accepted rules of civilized society, and that nobody is trying to stop Damascus."]

Rabin, Meridor Clash

TA1308134889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Today's cabinet meeting was again the scene of an argument between the defense minister and the justice minister over the legal and judicial restrictions applied to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] steps against the intifadah [uprising]. Minister Rabin said that the amendment passed 10 years ago on the issue of administrative detentions constrains the defense system's activities in the territories.

Minister Meridor said that the law is a good one. He recalled that the Supreme Court had promised that the High Court of Justice would discuss appeals against house sealing with special urgency.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Shahal suggested that the defense minister gather all the legal issues he would like to see amended and relay them to the ministerial legislation committee. The defense minister agreed to the proposal.

July CPI Up by 0.6 Percent; Peres Satisfied

TA1508150589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The Consumer Price Index [CPI] rose by 0.6 percent in July. According to figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, there was a 7.5 percent seasonal drop in the price of fruits and vegetables, and of 4 percent for clothing and footwear. The biggest price increases were of 3.5 percent for transportation and communications following higher public transportation fares, and of 2 percent in education and culture costs. Other items registered moderate increases of between 0.5 and 1.5 percent. The cumulative CPI increase since the beginning of the year is 12.6 percent.

Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that workers will receive a cost of living adjustment [COLA] of 1 percent in their next pay slips according to an agreement signed early in the year between the Treasury and the Histadrut. Tax brackets and national insurance payments will be adjusted by 7.6 percent.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres expressed satisfaction with the low CPI. He told our correspondent Haviva Roger that the figure was low despite two devaluations in 1989 and measures to promote exports. He said that if public transportation costs were removed, the CPI would be much lower.

The Treasury said the July CPI figure is lower than what had been forecast. It said the chief impact on the CPI was June's devaluation and the price increases in subsidized foodstuffs. The Treasury pointed out that the current target is to reach single-digit inflation toward the end of the year. The Treasury estimates that the August CPI will be up by no more than 1 percent.

Dov Lautman, chairman of the Industrialists Association, was pleased that this year's price increases were similar to those of last year despite the devaluations, which proves that the shekel's exchange rate can be adjusted without causing excessive inflation.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar expressed disappointment with the CPI figure, which he said was higher than in previous years. Qeysar told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch that the increase indicates an annual inflation rate of 20 percent, although the COLA agreements were signed on the assumption that the rise in the annual CPI would be in single digits. Qeysar added that he was especially concerned about the high level of unemployment and regretted that the government was doing nothing to bring it down.

IDF Allowed To Shoot 'Masked' Palestinians

TA1508083789 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the West Bank will open fire at masked Palestinians, according to an order issued this week by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command to IDF officers in the field.

This order in fact emulates a similar procedure effected in the Gaza Strip a few months ago. The order applying to the West Bank goes into effect this week. The new procedures were relayed to the commanders in the field by the operations officer of the Judaea and Samaria Army Division.

Senior Central Command officers said that the order to open fire at masked men is mainly designed to deter the gangs attempting to assassinate or harass collaborators, because most murders and attacks have been perpetrated by masked youngsters.

[In a pool report on pages 1 and 2 of Section A, Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 15 August notes that "Majoar General Mordekhay has been formulating a plan that will include numerous new means to quell the uprising in the territories. The implementation of the plan will begin within the next few days." The report adds that in response to the steep rise in the number of firebomb attacks, "the IDF has decided to take harsh measures against suspected firebomb throwers by reverting to the policy of demolishing the houses of all those who are found to have been involved in this type of activity. The houses of suspects who have been caught over the last few months and are currently under arrest will apparently also be demolished."]

Al-Husayni Asks End to Murders of Collaborators

TA1508103189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni today issued a call not to assassinate people suspected of collaborating with Israel. Al-Husayni told an ITIM correspondent that efforts should be made to go on waging the intifadah [uprising] in a less violent direction and said that in his opinion, Palestinians have been killing innocent people whom they suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

A leaflet on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising distributed in Tulkarm today calls for caution in dealing with collaborators and for attacks only against those whose collaboration has been corroborated with clear-cut proof.

Arabs Sentenced for Membership in Fatah

TA1508004389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] A military court in Gaza sentenced a 28-year-old Khan Yunus resident to 13 years in prison. 'Umar Abu-'Amar was convicted of being a member of Fatah and organizing a terror gang that operated in the Gaza Strip. He was also convicted of possessing weapons and firebombs. Abu-'Amar was released in the 1985 prisoner exchange with Ahmad Jibril. He had been serving a 27-year sentence.

In another development, the court sentenced a Jabalyah resident, Ghassan Abu-Ziyad, to 4 years in prison for hurling bricks and stones at soldiers.

14 Aug Unrest in Territories Updated

TA1508082889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] In a violent incident in the Jabalyah refugee camp Sunday night between masked men and a local family which refused to hand over its magnetic entry cards into Israel, two masked men were wounded. They managed to escape, and their identity is therefore unknown. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, nine residents were wounded in yesterday's disturbances in the territories. In the Gaza Strip, four locals were wounded in disturbances in various locations. A youth, Riyad Ahmad Husayn, arrived at the hospital with a head wound inflicted by an ax. He said he was wounded in a fight with his brother, but Palestinian sources claimed he was wounded by Arabs who suspected him of collaborating with the authorities.

In the Gaza Strip, curfews remain in force in the Khan Yunus refugee camp and in several Rafah neighborhoods. Palestinian sources have reported that three residents were wounded yesterday in Janin. In an incident in Hebron, a settler fired at a local resident, wounding him.

The Central Command spokesman has said that an investigation showed no one was injured in either of these events, but that four residents were wounded in stoning incidents: two in Balatah and two in 'Asirah

al-Shamaliyah. The spokesman further reported that the curfews continue in the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camps, in the township of Dhannabah, and in Qabatiyah. Yesterday, rumors circulated saying that a resident was killed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the village of Yattah, but the IDF spokesman in the Central Command said that an investigation revealed no fatalities.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 August reports that "a 23-year-old resident of the al-Fari'ah refugee camp, near Nabulus, died last night of wounds sustained yesterday in the course of disturbances in the camp." The report further states that "Ahmad 'Abd-al-Khalid Ayub was injured after a group of youths hurled bricks from close range at an Army patrol."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 15 August in a report on page 3 by Ayelet Mazor and Pinhas 'Inbari, adds: "A firebomb was hurled yesterday at an Army vehicle in Nabulus; there were no casualties. Arab sources reported that in the adjacent village of 'Aqraba, too, several firebombs were thrown at military vehicles. The sources further reported that in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus, masked men stopped an Arab bus which was transporting Arab laborers to work in Israel, ordered the workers off the bus, and torched the vehicle. In Bethlehem, masked locals beat up a youth suspected of collaborating with the authorities."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 15 August in a report by the military correspondent on pages 1 and 2, adds: "Suhayl Darwish, a resident of the Ayda refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem, was beaten and hospitalized. He had been suspected of collaborating with the authorities." The report further states that "the IDF yesterday conducted a series of initiated operations in several Bethlehem neighborhoods, in the villages of Battir and Tuqu', and in seven villages in the Ramallah and Janin Districts."]

Government, PLO Reportedly Coordinate Over Dinar
JN1408135289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Dispatch by Randah Habib in Amman]

[Text] We have learned from an authorized source that the Jordanian Government and the PLO command have recently held coordination meetings and consultations which have played a prominent role in the tangible raise in the Jordanian dinar in the markets of the occupied Arab territories during the past 48 hours.

As a result of this coordination, which is based on mutual interest, the PLO issued instructions to citizens in the occupied territories urging them to hold onto the dinar, which is considered the savings currency for Palestinian citizens in those territories.

Yesterday the dinar's exchange rate reached an average rate of 770 fils to the dollar, after the dollar reached a rate of 1 dinar 20 fils.

In a related development, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim told us that the PLO is concerned about citizens' conditions in the occupied territories and hence about the dinar's rate of exchange as it is the main currency for residents of those territories.

Milhim referred to the connection between the economic and political situations. He asserted that the detente in political relationships between Jordan and the PLO must yield fruit economically.

Finally, Milhim explained that one of the positive results of this detente is the Jordanian Government's allowing the Palestine National Fund, which is considered the PLO's Finance Ministry, to have its headquarters in Amman.

'Source' Warns of Foreign Intervention in Lebanon
JN1408183689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] An official Jordanian source has stated the following: Jordan—leadership, government, and people—has followed with grave concern and pain the continuing and progressively worsening situation in sisterly Lebanon and the actions that are currently taking place in the Lebanese arena, which are contrary to humanitarian values and principles. He expressed Jordan's indignation, denunciation, and condemnation of the serious escalation of the crisis, whose fuel is the Arab people of Lebanon—women, men, elderly, and children—who are mercilessly being killed by shelling and who are confined under the debris of houses without food, shelter, or medicine.

The spokesman said that Jordan, which had earlier participated in the efforts of the six-member committee and in all efforts to achieve national reconciliation and restore normality to Lebanon so that it can play its required pan-Arab role, along with its brothers, has continued to support every sincere Arab effort to reach an honorable and final solution to the crisis. It submitted clear and objective proposals to the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca for expediting a solution to the crisis and preventing its repercussions from damaging the future of Lebanon and neighboring Arab countries. From this premise, Jordan, along with its Arab brothers, supported the formation of the higher tripartite committee and the authorization of all powers to it in order to end the predicament and guarantee the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon. It followed up its sincere intensive efforts to achieve the noble aims entrusted to it. It heard with pain that the committee could not continue its mission and that it had reached a dead end.

He said that Jordan believes that matters have reached a threatening stage with signs of foreign intervention to rescue an Arab country that would have been better helped and rescued from its ordeal and suffering by the Arabs. The source warned that Israel is lying in wait to seize the opportunity to make more gains at the expense of Arab rights and territory, and that the continuation of the tragedy will place the entire region under threat of Balkanization and fragmentation. This will also result in foiling the valiant Palestinian intifadah [uprising], distracting attention from the arbitrary Israeli practices and measures against the Palestinian Arab people, and robbing the Arabs and Muslims of their right to restore their sovereignty over Jerusalem and the Islamic and Christian holy places which were held in their trust through the centuries since the dawn of Islam.

The official source stressed that Jordan, which has always been committed to speaking the truth and which belongs to and works for its nation, appeals to the higher Arab leaders immediately to work for rescuing Lebanon and protecting pan-Arab welfare before it is too late.

Reportage on Continued Fighting in Beirut Area

More on 14 Aug Al-Dawwar Battle

NC1408183189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpts] We begin with a report on the battles in al-Dawwar, which continued to rage violently for approximately 3 hours between 1200 and 1500 today. Meanwhile, the townships of Bikfayya, Bhirsaf, Bayt Shabab, Dahr al-Sawwan, B'abda, and their neighborhoods were shelled.

Security sources have informed us that the Army has managed to destroy two Syrian trucks on this front after the Army had monitored a Syrian convoy that was proceeding from al-Muruj and Bulunya toward Btighrin. It has been reported that 9 persons were killed. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, shell fire was traded on the combat lines in Suq al-Gharb and (al-Shaykh 'Arif) hill in Suq al-Gharb, where the Army destroyed two Syrian tanks. The Army has responded to the emplacements of the artillery which shelled the eastern areas in Sa'd Nayil, Ta'nayil, and Sir'in in al-Biqa' where one person was reported killed. The Army has also bombarded the aggressive emplacements in upper al-Matn and the mountain as far as 'Aramun.

According to the latest reports, shells are falling on al-Ashrafiyah, the vicinity of Furn al-Shubbak, the fringes of al-Matn coast, al-Hazimiyah, B'abda, the vicinity of the Defense Ministry and the Presidential Palace, central al-Matn, particularly Brummana, al-Matn coast, and upper Kasrawan. [passage omitted].

Suq al-Gharb Battle Detailed

JN1508071889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus—The political leadership of the Lebanese National Front held a meeting yesterday, during which it reviewed the developments of Michel 'Awn's recent devastating escalation. It discussed in particular the Suq al-Gharb battle waged by the martyr Kamal Junblatt forces, and stressed the following facts:

1. This heroic battle has emphasized the collapse of the imaginary red lines, and the Lebanese nationalist forces' ability to penetrate and destroy them, and consequently has refuted 'Awn's claims regarding his devastating war of liberation.

2. This heroic battle was a qualitative reply to the course of devastating shelling adopted by Michel 'Awn, and which targeted innocent citizens and the health, social, and educational institutions, by developing the battle into storming the al-Yarzah army and the B'abda butcher.

3. This heroic battle has stressed the importance of the nationalist Lebanese fighter in confronting the Zionized isolationist cliques in the fierce battle of confrontation in which Israel and the Iraqi regime, through instructions from U.S. imperialism, throw all their weight in with the isolationist divisionist forces.

4. The nationalist parties and forces have taken all measures to pursue the battle to the end, topple the agent regime, liberate and unify Lebanon, carry out comprehensive political reform, and to safeguard Lebanon's Arabism and pan-Arab affiliation.

5. The National Front greets with pride the martyr Kamal Junblatt Forces and the righteous martyrs who fell in the field of honor and dignity. It also greets comrade Walid Junblatt for his nationalist leading role.

Syrian Losses Noted

NC1508123889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army continues to repulse the onslaught against the free areas which have been set on fire but not burned by the continued Syrian shelling.

The Army has achieved the following since last night:

It shelled the headquarters of the Syrian company positioned in al-Madfun and set it on fire.

It destroyed the headquarters of the tank battalion in al-Madfun. Ambulances were seen evacuating several dead and wounded from the area.

At 1307 today, the Lebanese Army destroyed a 23-mm gun used by the Syrians in al-Ard High School in 'Alayh.

As of 1200 today, clashes became violent in al-Tayyunah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, the suburb, and the Old Sidon Road [in Beirut]. Artillery, rockets, and mortars are being used in the fighting. The Syrians have shelled the East Beirut residential areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Badaru. The clashes abate at times and escalate at others. The fighting subsided a short while ago, with only intermittent shelling being reported on the battle lines.

Shortly after 1200 today, the Museum-al-Barbir crossing point was closed because of the intermittent clashes taking place nearby. [passage omitted]

More on Casualties

NC1408182389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Regarding yesterday's Suq al-Gharb operation, the Army Command's Guidance Directorate has reported that, as a result of the abortive offensive that was launched by the Syrian occupation army and some of those collaborating with it on the Suq al-Gharb front, some Syrians and Lebanese who had deluded themselves

were killed and their bodies have been taken to the B'abda Government Hospital. The command has asked the families of those killed to come to the hospital to identify their bodies.

Meanwhile, six bodies of aggressors are still hanging on the barbed wire in the area.

Syrians Said Massing Troops

NC1508091089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] AP has cited a military source close to General Michel 'Awn as saying that the Syrians are massing troops in (al-Duwwar) and are reinforcing their positions there with T-62 tanks and mortars of various calibers. Gunmen of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party have joined the troops assmebled by Syria in that area. The source said that the Lebanese Army is preparing to confront another offensive on the Suq al-Gharb front.

Fighting Renewed 15 Aug

NC1508065089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Today is the 154th day of the war of liberation. The situation this morning remains volatile. Between its illusion of penetrating the Suq al-Gharb front and awakening to the reality of its losses, Syria has pushed the situation to a new geographically qualitative point within a new military plan, namely starting battles on all fronts, along the traditional contact lines in the capital and the confrontation lines in the mountain and the north to encircle the free areas with the support of its naval blockade and a heavy long-range artillery barrage. This is designed to open a breach in any of the fronts in the wake of the unsuccessful Suq al-Gharb operation. [passage omitted]

Clashes with heavy weapons resumed this morning along the Science College-al-Kafa'at confrontation line coupled with heavy mortar fire on al-Hadath between 0330 and 0400. Similar clashes occurred at dawn on the Suq-al-Gharb-'Aytat combat line and some of the capital's confrontation lines.

Unidentified aircraft flew over the capital this morning.

Syrian bombardment of the free areas also resumed this morning. A number of shells fell on coastal al-Matn and the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah shortly before 0700 today. A Syrian rocket launcher fired its missiles at the coastal and central areas of Jubayl at approximately 0820. [passage omitted]

Violent clashes involving various types of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons erupted on all confrontation lines, including the al-Madfun combat line, between the Lebanese and Syrian Armies. Flares were dropped in several areas in al-Batrun. The clashes were accompanied by Syrian rocket bombardment from launchers deployed in the north of Army positions and residential neighborhoods in that area. Missiles fell on villages in central Jubayl. It was reported that this morning that al-Madfun crossing point has been closed to traffic from both directions. [passage omitted]

The Syrian shelling of the eastern areas yesterday martyred 6 people and wounded 30 others.

Media sources in the western area reported that 10 people died and 62 were injured. The wounded were taken to hospitals in the occupied areas. The same sources had earlier reported that shells fell on a number of West Beirut and Mountain areas in addition to areas in al-Biqa', specifically Shtawrah, Barr Ilyas, and Sa'd Nayil.

2 Killed in Eastern Area

NC1508094589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving the use of rockets and machineguns are taking place on the combat lines in the capital, the southern suburb, and the mountain. The city of 'Alayh and its vicinity and Baysur and the hills surrounding it are coming under intermittent howitzer shelling. Media sources in the eastern area reported that shells fell on the Presidential Palace, the Defense Ministry, al-Hadath, al-Fayyadiyah, al-Ashrafiyah, Halat, Bikfayya, the Kasrawan coast, central al-Matn, and the Jubayl coast and that two persons were killed and five others were wounded.

More on East Beirut Shelling

NC1408095789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] At 1130 today, the Syrian forces resumed their bombardment of East Beirut, particularly the villages and towns of southern al-Matn, B'abda, al-Yarzah, al-Fayyadiyah, and al-Hazimiyah. They expanded the bombardement at approximately 1140, pounding the center of northern al-Matn and the center of Kasrawan. At 1205, the bombardment spread to Bikfayya and its vicinity. In addition, the Syrians directed artillery and rocket fire against Army positions in Suq al-Gharb. The Army managed to destroy a Syrian tank on the mountain front. Nine shells fell on the northern al-Matn coast at approximately 0800.

Syrian Attacks Reportedly Abate

NC1508144789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Syrian attacks against the eastern areas have abated, relatively. According to the latest reports, two 240-mm shells fell in the vicinity of the Defense Ministry at 1535 today. Earlier, a shell of the same caliber fell in the al-Fayyadiyah area at about 1510.

The Syrian intermittent shelling from this morning until 1400 covered the areas of B'abda, al-Hazimiyah, al-Fayyadiyah, al- Rihaniyah, 'Arayya, al-Kahhalah, Badaru, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, the coastal and central upper al-Matn region, the coastal and central Kasrawan region, Bikfayya, and the residential neighborhoods in Jubayl.

The Syrian shelling this morning left three people dead and 11 others wounded.

Warplanes Fly 3 Sorties

NC1508081189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Warplanes carried out three sorties at 0645, 0730, and 0920 this morning. The warplanes fired thermal balloons and they flew from north to south passing over the mountain area.

Leaders Cited on Situation, Cease-Fire

Amal's Nabih Birri

NC1408193389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] In Damascus, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri ruled out an end to the battles unless one of the two parties to these battles triumphs. In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AL-KHALIJ, Birri expected ferocious fighting to take place until either General 'Awn or Syria and its allies that include Amal Movement, triumph.

Birri called on the United States to support his Amal Movement, warning that if it does not do so, it will find itself confronting the fundamentalists. He was referring to the hostages, who he did not expect to be released.

General 'Awn's Statement

NC1408212789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has declared that there will be no cease-fire unless it is linked to a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon and that there is no alternative to escalation.

In a statement to REUTER, Gen 'Awn said: Syria wants to occupy us by force. If they take us by force, at least we would know that we had lost an honorable battle. However, he added, we will not give Lebanon over to anyone on the basis of international advice.

Gen 'Awn noted that he has sufficient weapons to wage a long war, but he ruled out the possibility of a long war, saying: We will eventually oust the last Syrian soldier from Lebanon.

After indicating that Suq al-Gharb is a key position and that if it is taken, B'abda would be open, Gen 'Awn affirmed his determination to crush any force that seeks to overrun us.

Gen 'Awn cautioned that if the eastern areas are penetrated militarily, the existing balance will be upset, and everyone will pay the price. He said that the Syrians do not understand the language of Western diplomacy. He added: They blockaded us in the sea but they failed; they attacked us on the land and also failed while the world remained silent. It is a plot against Lebanon; the world keeps quiet about the crimes against innocent Lebanon. He expressed his hope that all efforts will be exerted to establish peace in Lebanon, describing the efforts that have been exerted so far as mere words. He said that the world has not yet understood that Lebanon's problem is the Syrian presence on its territory. He asked: Does the world need more meetings?

Gen 'Awn emphasized that Lebanon will not be a consolation prize to anyone and that history will unmask all those who have committed crimes against it.

Commenting on the Syrian media's call for his removal, Gen 'Awn said: I call for the removal of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad because his regime is the cause of all the problems in the Middle East. He said that Syria is in a tight corner on political and security grounds and with regard to the hostages. He accused Syria of turning the Lebanese against each other ever since it entered Lebanon, noting that Syria then says it is remaining here to help unite the Lebanese. He added: Gen 'Awn and the Lebanese Army are not tools in syrian hands or of any other force in the world; we are a Lebanese tool for defending Lebanon and its security.

Al-Huss Reacts

NC1508120289 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has asserted that General 'Awn bears direct responsibility for the current deteriorating situation because of his insistence on what he calls the war of liberation. In a statement he made today, Prime Minister al-Huss expressed astonishment at 'Awn's statement that a cease-fire is not a nationalist objective and asked: If a cease-fire is not a nationalist objective, then is continuing to open fire on innocent people in their homes a nationalist stand? How can Gen 'Awn claim to support the Casablanca summit resolution when this resolution includes a clear call for a cease-fire, which 'Awn rejects. Prime Minister al-Huss added: Gen 'Awn maintains a double standard toward the Arab resolution, although his stand on the war from which the people suffer is clear. We cannot understand how 'Awn can support the Casablanca summit resolution when his public and explicit positions contradict all provisions for a solution called for by the summit resolution with regard to dialogue, reforms, and the election of a president.

On the current deterioration, Prime Minister al-Huss said: 'Awn bears direct responsibility because he insists on continuing what he calls a war of liberation and rejects a cease-fire. What we hope is that those who are concerned with the situation in Lebanon will realize this fact, namely that behind the continuing killing and destruction is a stand which cannot be dealt with merely by making emotional appeals and leveling arbitrary accusations.

'Awn, Syrian Envoy on Situation

LD1408132689 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A few minutes ago I was able to telephone General 'Awn, the prime minister of the Christian camp. You will hear him—the line, of course, is not very good—General 'Awn is in a bunker which is being shelled frequently. I asked him first of all what he thought of France's initiative in sending envoys, in particular to Damascus in Syria. General 'Awn's reply:

[Begin recording] ['Awn] Certainly it is a diplomatic language for civilized countries, but it is not a language for the Syrians. I say this very clearly. Syria is a regime from another age. One must use a different language, one needs to use a firm, military language to speak to it. They are not impressed with political initiatives.

[Unidentified correspondent] At this moment one observes that the military language is not bringing about any solution. There is shelling, there are civilian victims and there is no end to it. Should one not perhaps think about a diplomatic solution, Mr Prime Minister?

['Awn] A diplomatic solution with an assailant, an occupier—I do not know if France was able to achieve its liberation from Hitler by dialogue. It has never been a matter for dialogue. We are speaking of liberation, we are not speaking about a border conflict, or (?a cooking stove) or some other matter for negotiation. We are an occupied country, and Syria does not recognize our sovereignty and our independence. That is the problem. Why shy away from the fundamental issue and say things which are not appropriate to the current situation?

[Correspondent] You do not acknowledge that Syria has any right over the Lebanon?

['Awn] [Words indistinct] No right. Do you have any rights over Switzerland or Spain in France, or over the United States? It is not admissable. We are a founder member of the United Nations, and we are a founder member of the Arab League—completely independent and sovereign. Since when has the right of one country over another been recognized—when Lebanon is 1,000 years old and Syria is a modern invention.

[Correspondent] But do you frankly envisage a military victory of your troops over the Syrians?

['Awn] I do not envisage a victory of the classic kind, but I want to resist until I make the Syrians admit that they must leave Lebanon. [end recording]

That was General 'Awn, the prime minister of the Christian camp, whom we were able to contact by telephone a few minutes ago.

The Syrians for their part assert that they did not take part in the battle of Suq al-Garb yesterday, and yet we know that there are 35,000 Syrian soldiers over two-thirds of Lebanese territory. Patrick Pugient questioned the Syrian ambassador to France, Hunayn Hatim, in Paris this morning. The first question: Under what conditions could a cease-fire come into effect?

[Begin recording] [Hatim] To have a lasting and complete cease-fire all the channels by which the weapons arrive must be controlled on both sides, and this is the mandate given to the security committee and in terms of this I believe that either the patriotic forces agree, and we see that this is logical and we are exerting, we are making use of our good relations with this party. [sentence as heard]

[Pugeint] In your opinion, should Michel 'Awn agree to surrender?

[Hatim] Listen, Michel 'Awn is a man who has ruined Lebanon. He is a man, I believe, who maintains the area where he exerts his influence in terror. Michel 'Awn caused that clash and has ruined Lebanon. I believe that Michel 'Awn does not even have the support of the forces which are in the zone which he controls. So I believe that in order for the hostilities to cease, Michel 'Awn must at least conform with what the Arab League has decided.

[Pugeint] Is Syria at war today in Lebanon against Christian Lebanon?

[Hatim] Syria is not at war either with Christian Lebanon or with Lebanon in general. Syria is a brother country of Lebanon and intervened in 1976, as everyone knows, as a result of an appeal and an official request on the part of the president of the republic who is [as heard] Christian, and most of the political groups, above all the Christian political groups. Syria succeeded in putting an end to the fratricidal war, to the civil war in Lebanon, before the activation of these hostilities by General 'Awn. Syria does not support one side or oppose another in Lebanon. Syria is for all the Lebanese, whatever their beliefs.

[Pugeint] So how is it that today the international community accuses Syria of being at the bottom of this conflict?

[Hatim] I think that it is going too far to say the international community. It is not the international community which is accusing Syria. There are certain countries which, as a result of their interests, let us say,

and hypocritically or selfishly, seek to blame Syria, contrary to the truth. I believe that either they are basing themselves on erroneous and unobjective information or they have ulterior motives in taking this position. [end recording]

These remarks were recorded by Patrick Pugeint of France Info. In view of the worsening situation in Lebanon, France is attempting to find a solution. Yesterday Francois Mitterrand received Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Roland Dumas has had a telephone discussion with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. [passage omitted]

Shiite Leader Optimistic on End to Hostage Issue

NC1408203289 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Aug 14 (AFP)—The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite Muslim community, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, expressed optimism Monday [14 August] that the problem of Western hostages would soon be resolved.

"The hostage affair is on the road to resolution and the chances of settling it are increasing," he told reporters. "Nonetheless, involved Western powers must give up muscle-flexing and stop siding with Israel."

He added that the issue of Israeli soldiers captured in south Lebanon had no relation to the 15 Westerners believed held hostage by pro-Iranian Shiite groups.

"These soldiers were taken prisoner by Muslim forces while committing acts of aggression against south Lebanon," said Shaykh Shams al-Din, head of Lebanon's Supreme Shiite Council. [passage omitted]

'Awn Reportedly Contacts Israelis; Plans Bombings

NC1208082189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The bout of violence led by General Michel 'Awn over a period of 15 hours and which began at 1400 yesterday and lasted until 0600 today has resulted in the death of at least 16 people and the wounding of 70 others in all the areas that came under bombardment. [passage omitted]

According to security reports, violent clashes took place on the Ra's al-Nab' and Sodeco confrontation lines in Beirut, and the 'Aytat and Suq al-Gharb fronts. Phalangist media are issuing warnings to the citizens of the eastern areas to be cautious. This is a sign of intended escalation of the situation.

Security sources in Beirut have received reports that al-Yarzah's [Lebanese Army] and Phalangist forces are making preparations, under the patronage of a high-level authority, to undertake actions intended to create confusion in the Islamic and nationalist areas. The sources add that contacts have been carried out in this respect with the agent Antoine Lahd who will undertake to send booby-trapped vehicles to Sidon, Tyre, and other areas in the south. At the same time, booby-trapped cars will be also sent to West Beirut and the southern Suburb. These preparations are taking place amid talk of tragic events that might occur at the end of this month.

In this connection, security reports have stated that Gen 'Awn sent envoys a few days ago to meet with senior Israeli officials in northern Palestine as part of the ongoing consultation and coordination between the two sides. The reports add that the Israelis have asked 'Awn's envoys to tell the general to adopt a stand publicizing his willingness to conduct talks and conclude a security agreement with Israel to secure its northern border.

'Awn Rejects Offer To Lift Blockade 11 Aug

NC1108164889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] While the Syrians are continuing their shelling of the eastern areas with their heavy artillery and rocket launcher emplacements in al-Shuwayfat, the mountain, upper al-Matn, and al-Biqa', contacts between the Arab committee, Syria, and the international capitals of decisionmaking—particularly the Soviet Union, France, the Vatican, and some U.S. officials—are gathering speed in order to find a way to resume the tripartite committee's mission.

It has been learned that Damascus has offered to lift the blockade and cease fire as a first step. But as the Syrian attacks have reached this level and after Damascus' refusal, through its Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', to recognize the independent Lebanese entity, General Michel 'Awn insisted on discussing the timetable for Syrian withdrawal as the first step toward discussing any other issue.

Informed sources have reported that the Syrian military escalation aims to impede any effort to revive the Arab committee's work, particularly after committee sources have told the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH that the committee members have demanded a cease-fire guarantee and a timetable for the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon as conditions for resuming the committee mission.

Military sources have reported that the heavy artillery and rocket shelling that is continuously concentrated on the Presidential Palace and the vicinity of the Defense Ministry is the result of the direct hits that the Lebanese Army is scoring in its retaliation against Syrian positions.

Hizballah 'Political Commentary' on Solution

NC1508084089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The accelerating pace of events over the past few days reflects the need to find a practical way to break the impasse. A political way out of the current conflict is no longer possible. Therefore, the only remaining hope is that the war machine will itself be able to decide matters and rescue everybody from a veritable disaster.

The general's [Michel 'Awn] madness is getting out of hand, and his rashness is taking its toll in all parts of the country. 'Awn is no longer making a secret of his apocalyptic visions nor of his designs to inflict mass destruction, for he believes he should either realize his insidious dreams or bring down the temple.

Mediation and pressure no longer work. Initiatives are futile. Some of these initiatives actually complicate matters further. This was particularly true with the recent efforts by the Arab tripartite committee, which culminated in the famous report in which that committee tried to rehabilitate Michel 'Awn and bestow legitimacy on his positions, tactics, and slogans.

Therefore, there is no longer much of a choice. There is no more time for new initiatives or renewed action by Arab committee. Any such move would only give the enemy, and not the struggling forces, breathing space.

There are no options other than the one that started yesterday [as heard] with the attempt to penetrate the Suq al-Gharb front, an offensive launched by the Progressive Socialist Party's Popular Liberation Army and other friendly groups. It is immaterial whether this offensive was meant to test the enemy's defenses or break through its lines or whether it has produced the desired results. What matters is that the attempt was the first step in the right direction toward a solution and toward breaking the intransigence of the little general.

This attempt should be renewed, but care should be taken to open all fronts, so as not to give the Maronite military forces even the slightest chance to catch their breath. There is no doubt that with more pressure and more attempts, the lines of these homegrown Zionists will be penetrated and consequently the enemy plans and its dreams of hegemony and dominatin will be defeated. Lebanon should not be allowed to turn into a Western and Zionist garrison or a regional surrogate for global arrogance.

It is the duty of all forces today to take part in this open war, to which we should devote all our resources, capabilities, and efforts. We have to remember that this battle, which may decide the fate of the sectarian regime and consequently the fate of the long-standing call for change, will demand sacrifice, martyrs, and strenuous efforts. [passage omitted]

Today's war against the Maronite military clique epitomizes our entire and declared war against the forces of Zionist occupation, Arab reactionaries such as [Iraqi President] Saddam and the like, and Western arrogance and crusaders. The capabilities and resources of these forces have been placed behind Michel 'Awn, who has become a symbol of the war waged and the conspiracies hatched by all these forces against us. To break the might of the Maronite military clique is actually to thwart all the designs of the international, regional, and local enemies. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party Political Bureau Meets

NC1408190589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau, Consultative Council, and Central Council held a plenary meeting today. At the outset of the meeting, party leader Dr George Sa'adah referred to the serious security situation in the country, the large-scale attack launched on the eastern areas, and yesterday's ferocious offensive on the Suq al-Gharb front and the military operations for which the occupation forces had mobilized various types of destructive weapons in a bid to penetrate one of the invincible fortresses.

Dr Sa'adah addressed a word of esteem and reverence to the units of the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese forces who showed an outstanding fighting capability in defense of the free areas. He also addressed a similar salute to the citizens who are standing fast everywhere and who have been enduring the most destructive weapons—something which no other people on the face of this earth have tolerated. He emphasized that the people's steadfast support of their Army and its resistance is as important as standing fast on the fronts. This, he said, confirms the Lebanese people's faith and adherence to their right to their land and their homeland and their rejection of all forms of occupation.

The Phalangist leader condemned the method being used in destroying the public installations and the residential areas and in killing the largest number possible of innocent citizens. He called on the international community to condemn the current attempts to destroy a homeland and annihilate an entire people. He called on the international community to act expeditiously to halt the massacre of the people.

Dr Sa'adah warned against the persisting attempts to strike at the internal ranks and to spread rumors via some media which have mobilized their capabilities for such abortive attempts and whose cheap goals have become common knowledge.

Dr Sa'adah emphasized that a cohesive internal front is an effective weapon to repulse the ferocious onslaught to which we are being subjected on all the military, political, and moral fronts.

Dr Sa'adah this morning toured some of the eastern areas which were shelled. He also visited the Voice of Lebanon radio building and met with the employees there and congratulated them on the efforts they are exerting to convey the security events and clarify the situation to the local and international public. Dr Sa'adah also held a series of contacts that included Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, a number of key figures and military, political, and parliamentary leaders, with whom he reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon.

Druze Group Calls For Mobilization Against 'Awn

NC1508131589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] During its regular meeting today, the Bayt al-Din grouping discussed local developments. At the end of the meeting, Marwan Hamadah read the following statement:

At 1000, on Tuesday, 15 August 1989, the general committee of the Bayt al-Din Grouping held a meeting under his Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Shaqra, the spiritual leader of the Druze community. [passage omitted]

The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the current situation in the wake of the escalation of the conflict between the nationalist forces and the isolationist group led by the Michel 'Awn military clique. After listening to the political and military report presented by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and a discussion by the committee members, the grouping adopted the appropriate decisions to ensure military, political, and social steadfastness to confront the current challenges.

The Bayt al-Din Grouping maintains, first, that a state of war exists and will continue until the military clique and its partition scheme are destroyed. This requires the mobilization of all resources to defend our continued existence and national values and to establish an Arab democratic state. It will not accept any political solution that does not provide for the complete equality of all citizens.

Second, the Bayt al-Din Grouping affirms to all states and forces involved in the Lebanese issue that the Druze community, proceeding from its national, pan-Arab, Islamic, and historical position, will not allow the plot to partition and Zionize Lebanon to be implemented. It will mobilize all its forces to foil the scheme of establishing a second Israel on Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Third, the Bayt al-Din Grouping calls for the last time on the national government to shoulder its responsibilities in terms of providing the necessary means for our people's and national Army's continued steadfastness in the confrontation areas in Beirut, the suburb, and the mountain by immediately establishing a higher committee for steadfastness and allocating appropriate funds consistent with the popular sacrifices. The grouping calls for ending once and for all the supply of public funds to 'Awn from the Central Bank.

Fourth, the Bayt al-Din Grouping salutes the Popular Liberation Army-the Martyr Kamal Junblatt Forces and all the nationalist fighting groups and hails the martyrs of the national cause. [passage omitted]

Fifth, the Bayt al-Din Grouping calls for general popular mobilization to defend our fate and existence and the option of Lebanese and Arab unity against isolation. It also praises Syria's pan-Arab role in supporting the Lebanese patriots in their legitimate struggle. [passage omitted]

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Damascus 14 Aug

JN1408160089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria to deliver a letter from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent before departing Tehran today, Velayati said that during his Damascus visit he will hold talks with brother Syrian officials on bilateral relations and regional issues, with a special emphasis on Lebanese developments. His visit to Damascus, added the minister, is part of consultations and coordination between Syria and Iran and Lebanon's nationalist forces to confront the Zionist enemy's plots. He said Michel 'Awn is behind the latest military escalation in Lebanon in his capacity as an agent of the United States and Israel, playing a part set for him to destroy Lebanon. During his Syrian visit, he will hold talks with leaders of of the Lebanese nationalist forces. Velayati stressed his country's support for Lebanon and its legitimate government in standing up to aggressive, Zionist schemes.

Further on Arrival

JN1408181489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus at 1630 today carrying a letter from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Welcoming Velayati and his delegation at Damascus international airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his assistant Dia'ul-din al-Fattal, Iran's ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff, as well as senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Dr Velayati made an arrival statement in which he said he is carrying a letter from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. During my visit, I will exchange views with my brothers and with my colleague Faruq al-Shar,' as well as with Lebanon's Islamic and nationalist forces, he said. Replying to a question, Velayati said his talks with his Syrian brothers have always produced good results. We have high hopes that these talks will also bring about very good results in the context of the strategic relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made a statement in which he welcomed Dr Velayati to Damascus. We are confident that our talks with the Iranian delegation will further contribute to an expansion of the good and close relations between Syria and Iran, said Al-Shar'

Velayati Remarks on Hostages

JN1408201089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati has arrived in Damascus at the head of a delegation. His Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', the Iranian ambassador, and a number of senior officials received him at the airport.

In a statement to SANA prior to his departure from Tehran, Velayati said he will hold talks with the Syrian officials on bilateral relations and regional issues, particularly the developments of the situation in the Lebanese arena. He indicated that the visit comes within the framework of the consultations and coordination existing between Syria, Iran, and the national Lebanese forces. He added that he will hold talks in Syria with the leaders of the national Lebanese forces.

In a statement at Damascus Airport, Velayati said he is carrying a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Asked about the Western hostages in Lebanon, Velayati answered verbatim: No negotiation before the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

It is noteworthy that the agenda of talks between the Iranian minister and the Syrian leaders includes discussing the overall development of bilateral relations. Informed sources had earlier said the subject of releasing the Western hostages who are held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups will be one of the topics that will be discussed during Velayati's visit to Syria.

Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD1508095389 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug 15, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Lebanese Alim 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in Damascus Tuesday.

Important regional issues, recent development in Lebanon and the atrocities of the Lebanese Christian leader Michel 'Awn against the oppressed people of this country were among major topics discussed in the meeting, the Foreign Minstry public relations office said.

Both Velayati and Fadlallah reiterated the need for unity and solidarity among Lebanese Muslim combatant forces in their fight against the Zionist regime.

Velayati is currently on an official visit to Syria at the head of a delegation to [words indistinct].

More on Meeting

NC1508071289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, who is currently in Syria, met the Hizballah leadership council at the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Damascus and held talks with them.

During this meeting, which was also attended by the political delegation accompanying the foreign minister and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Damascus, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, one of the leaders of the Lebanese Hizballah revolutionary movement, explained the joint anti-Zionist operations of the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon and presented a detailed report on the latest clashes in Beirut.

Mr Velayati then stressed the need for unity, coordination, and cooperation among Lebanon's Islamic and national forces in their struggle against the Zionists and the Maronite forces under the command of Michel 'Awn and reviewed ways and means of salvaging Lebanon from the present situation.

Another report by the Central News Unit states that Mr Velayati met Mr Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Movement, last night at our embassy in Damascus. During this meeting, Mr Nabih Birri reported on the latest situation in Beirut and the recent political moves in the region, reviewed the effects of the Tehran sessions, and stressed the need for cooperation among the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon and Palestine against Zionism and the forces under Michel 'Awn's command.

Press Cited on Lebanon, Suq al-Gharab Battle

JN1508082089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Awn's Imaginary Battle and the Battle of True Liberation," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: 'Awn has fabricated an imaginary story to the effect that the Syrian Arab Forces, with all their prestige and weight, entered into a battle against his clique in Suq al-Gharb.

AL-BA'TH adds: Is it possible that these forces choose a small antagonist, the size of Michel 'Awn, and a battle such as the Suq al-Gharb battle, and then be defeated in it?

AL-BA'TH adds: Those who waged the Suq al-Gharb battle and who will soon lead the true liberation of Lebanon are the nationalist and Islamic forces, which, during the past period, were advised by Syria not to be dragged into a military solution.

AL-BA'TH adds: This battle of liberation has become the demand of all Lebanese after they have lost patience with Israel and its agents, with the Baghdad ruler and his agents, and with the big conspiracy against Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and the law of justice and equality in it.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: When these nationalist and Islamic forces decide to wage this battle, then 'Awn will not have time to make statements and announcements, and these forces will have no need to deny the participation of any Syrian soldier in the conflict. This is because the results will speak for themselves and the Lebanese people will speak for themselves about their battle in which they will topple the cardboard general, whom Israel and Saddam Husayn have in vain supplied with iron legs.

In its comment today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH analyzes the causes and facts of the internal conflict in Lebanon. Under the headline "A Fact That Cannot Be Ignored," the paper says: The attempt to ignore the nature of the internal conflict in Lebanon, and its several parties and forces, has failed. This is because it is impossible to ignore the facts of the conflict and the crux of the Lebanese crisis.

The paper adds: What is taking place in terms of clashes and operations that are carried out by the nationalist forces against the agent clique's positions proves that the Lebanese nationalist forces represent the interests of the majority of the Lebanese—interests that cannot be ignored or overlooked in any solution. No solution can actually be acceptable unless it takes these interests into consideration. The conflict in Lebanon is between the sweeping majority and a Zionized party that runs after an isolationist plan that is mortgaged to the Zionist scheme aimed at fragmenting Lebanon and dividing it into fragile sectarian statelets.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: To Ignore this fact is to revolve in a vicious circle, and consequently indulge in illusions, because the nationalist forces, which proved to the whole world their capability and effectiveness when they confronted the Zionist invasion and foiled its results, will never accept the tendentious attempts to impose a news blackout on their role and ignore their political role and demands.

More on Meetings With French Envoy on Lebanon

JN1408131889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Official news media here highlighted the lengthy talks which French Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francois Cher held in Damascus yesterday with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The media said the two sides

exchanged views on all aspects of the Lebanese situation and agreed to continue the dialogue between the Syrian and French Governments. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, a spokesman for Fatah-the Uprising has denied in a telephone call to our radio that the forces of Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] have taken part in any attack or have sustained any losses whatsoever. The spokesman, 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Nashshash, said all that happened was that the movement's positions were exposed to direct shelling and they returned the fire. The movement did not participate in any battles on the ground, he added.

In another development, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will begin an official visit to Syria tonight. The visit, which is of special significance, is expected to lead to a qualitative change in the relations between the two countries. The agenda of the talks between the Iranian minister and the Syrian leaders includes the discussion of the general development of the relations between Syria and Iran. It is noteworthy that this is the first visit by a high-ranking Iranian official since the tripartite Arab committee announced that its efforts to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis had reached a dead end. The release of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian organizations in Lebanon will also be among the topics to be discussed during Velayati's visit to Syria. Several Lebanese leaders are expected to arrive in Damascus to meet with Velayati and Syrian officials.

Khaddam Receives Cher

JN1308181689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] At 1800 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Francois Cher, director general of the French Foreign Ministry, and his delegation. The French charge d'affaires in Damascus attended.

The meeting dealt with different aspects of the situation in Lebanon.

Press on 'Awn's 'Destructive War' in Lebanon

JN1208071689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Aug

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Conflict Between Two Wills," AL-THAWRAH says: An objective reading of the situations of the destructive war launched by 'Awn and his Zionized clique against Beirut, which he wants to destroy for the ninth time, outrightly affairms that the conflict in the Lebanese arena is raging between two wills. The first is nationalist—which represents the majority—and the second is a Zionized and isolationist will—which represents a very small group that adheres to their factional privilges and is employed by 'Awn for his coup plan to impose his hegemony over Lebanon after aborting all legitimate constitutional institutions. Therefore, the nationalist forces affirm the need firmly to confront this plan which converges with the Zionist plan on the objective of fragmenting Lebanon and dividing it into petty states and fragile sectarian cantons.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The imminent danger into which 'Awn is trying to drag Lebanon and the Arab nation must be faced and confronted. The nationalist Lebanese forces, which confronted the Zionist invasion and aborted—with Syria's support—the submissive agreement of 17 May will continue to oppose the 'Awn plot through escalating the resistance in the south. These forces underline the importance of Syria's national salvation role in Lebanon because Syria is the supporter of their national and pan-Arab struggle. And Lebanon's Arabism was never, and will never be a subject of bargains or discussion.

TISHRIN also editorializes on the Lebanese issue. Under the headline "'Awn's Plot Against the Lebanese and Pan-Arab Security," TISHRIN summarizes the causes of the Lebanese problem as follows: First, the adherence of a small opportunistic group to the factional, sectarian system at the expense of the interests of the majority of the Arab Lebanese people—the interests represented by the unity of people and land; second, the announced Zionist ambitions against Lebanon's land and water and the attempt to annul Lebanon's role and divide it into factional cantons that are affiliated with it [Israel]; third, the special situation of the region in light of its strategic geographical position and its possession of oil have always turned it into an area of conflict. The special location of the region made conflicts a colonialist necessity in addition to the expansionist Zionist factor aimed at wasting Arab potentials.

Hence, we understand why 'Awn and his isolationist clique reject political, constitutional, and social reforms. We also understand why he rejects the Casablanca summit resolutions and is trying to obstruct their implementation by escalating his criminal war and killing any Lebanese reconciliation efforts.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The plot perpetrated by 'Awn and his isolationist clique is exposed in terms of dimensions and objectives. The Arab duty is to thwart the plot that threatens not only Lebanon but also the security of all Arabs.

Afghanistan

Wakil Assails UN, Announces Diplomatic Offensive

BK1408151689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 14 Aug 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Afghan foreign minister slammed the United Nations on Monday [14 August] for encouraging Pakistan to violate the Geneva accords on Afghanistan and said Kabul was embarking on a diplomatic offensive to end the war here. Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said that President Najibullah will address the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Belgrade early next month in a bid to pressure Pakistan, and indirectly the United States, to end support for the mujahidin rebels who have been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan Government.

Mr Wakil told reporters from two Western news agencies that the U.N. body formed to help Pakistan and Afghanistan monitor the implementation of the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords has, through "ineffectiveness and passivity," encouraged the pro-mujahidin activities of Pakistan since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February.

The April 1988 accords, which provided for the Soviet troop pullout, were signed by Islamabad and Kabul and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington. They called for all parties to find a solution to the 10-year-old conflict, which has cost an estimated one million lives.

Despite some ceasefire agreements signed with the government in the past six months, most of the rebel groups have continued to fight, attacking cities near the Pakistan border and rocketing Kabul.

Kabul, which receives arms supplies from the Soviet Union, said as soon as the Soviet withdrawal was completed that Pakistan was the main foreign aggressor, and has repeatedly said that a peaceful solution could be found if Pakistan and the United States would stop supporting the mujahidin.

"The United Nations Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) has failed to prevent the sabotage of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan," said Mr Wakil, who signed the accords. Mr Wakil cited "generous assistance to the opposition groups" from the United States and the formation by the mujahidin of an interim government based in Peshawar, Pakistan, as evidence that "nothing has been done" to implement the U.N. accords.

"In our evaluation, we consider the work of UNGOMAP ineffective," he said. "After the Soviet troop withdrawal, the United Nations had been assigned an active role, to encourage dialogue and the formation of a broad-based government... Nothing has been done," he said.

"We say that preliminary and practical steps should be taken by the secretary general for the establishment of peace in our country," he said.

The foreign minister also said he expected U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to play a more active role in pushing a political solution.

Mr Wakil said he met Mr Perez de Cuellar in Addis Ababa in July and "openly told him that the problems in Afghanistan cannot be settled in New York, Geneva or Paris."

He said he had recommended that Mr Perez de Cuellar undertake shuttle diplomacy "because every day people are suffering from the rockets."

"I told him the U.N. should fulfil its mandate," he said, adding that "Kabul was not criticising the U.N as a whole, only the team (UNGOMAP)."

Mr Wakil said that Kabul would try to press home its point during which the Belgrade non-aligned meeting and September's scheduled U.N. General Assembly meetings, as well as at other U.N. forums as well, including a January meeting to review UNGOMAP's role.

Mr Wakil said he was hopeful that the NAM, which strongly opposed the Soviet troop presence in Afghanistan, would adopt a strongly worded "political declaration" in Belgrade calling for strict adherence to the accords.

He expressed optimism that such a statement would be accepted by consensus, even though Pakistan is a NAM member.

He described NAM's invitation to Mr Najibullah as a "blow to Pakistan" and said Kabul felt that "Pakistan will be under pressure in Belgrade, because they are violating the Geneva accords," calling for non-interference in one another's domestic affairs.

Mr Wakil said Afghanistan's "very realistic" proposals would broadly encompass a call for adherence to the accords, pursuit of a political and not military solution, and encouragement of the warring Afghan parties to engage in negotiations.

He expressed hope of gaining more acceptance for Kabul's position because Mr Najibullah had "rejected the extremism" of previous Afghan governments and wanted the people to "choose their own economic, social and political system."

The Afghan Government has since mid-1987 urged that all sides should meet to form a broad-based, elected coalition government.

Mr Najibullah has said that a military solution to the conflict was impossible and has called for a ceasefire as the first step towards peace.

Government To Expand Security Belt Around Kabul
BK1408170089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Afghan Government said Monday [14 August] the three ring security belt around Kabul was being expanded in the face of reports that mujahidin rebels had been supplied with new longer range rockets.

"Since it is assumed that the opposition is going to be equipped with new long range rockets, security forces have begun expanding the belt from 30 to 60 kilometers (18-37 miles)," government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said.

Last month the United States said it was providing the mujahidin with new sophisticated weapons to counteract what it described as the channelling of "unprecedented" levels of military supplies to Kabul by the Soviet Union.

The announcement said the weapons would include those capable of damaging airfields in an attempt to blunt the power of the Afghan Air Force.

Mr Amani said the expansion of the security perimeter would depend on the terrain, and that in some areas it would reach to 40 kilometers (25 miles) and in others 60 kilometers (37 miles).

In July, some 150 people died and more than 500 were injured by intensive shelling, and casualties have been almost as heavy this month.

Kabul Commander on Security
LD1108201189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Esteemed listeners of radio Afghanistan. Recently terrorist activities such as the U.S. missile fire over Kabul and explosions in the crowded and populated areas of the city have increased. Our compatriots naturally expect that the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will take serious and effective measures to prevent such terrorist actions. We have invited Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal Lodin, first deputy defense minister and commander of the Kabul garrison, to give us some information in this connection. We draw your attention to it:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Please tell us if such measures have been taken by Kabul garrison.

[Lodin] I should inform my dear compatriots that [word indistinct] with the Armed Forces who are stationed in Kabul have taken several measures. However, we always work on two main measures and assess them. The first part of our security measures consists of permanent measures; the second consists of temporary measures.

The first part—our permanent measures—involves expanding and strengthening posts, and continuous air reconnaissance. Our temporary measures include mopping up and search operations in the 12 zones of Kabul and its surroundings. Simultaneously with these measures and continuous air reconnaissance, we inflict blows on the gun positions, depots, and gathering places of the enemy, including those groups carrying out operations closer to the security belt of Kabul.

We want, by these means, to inflict blows and to prevent long-range missile fire by the enemy. Unfortunately, as we all know, the extremists—acting on a plan drawn up by Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis, and with U.S. instructions—fired a large number of missiles recently, especially during the end of this month, on Kabul. The total number was 489 missiles, and this resulted in the death and injury of a large number of innocent people. Also great damage was inflicted by these missiles on private property.

In order to prevent such accidents inside Kabul, we will develop and enhance our permanent measures, such as security posts outside the city. [passage indistinct]

Of course it is obvious to all our compatriots that with all these measures, the enemy suffers most of its losses in areas around Kabul and has moved away from the city. They are only able to fire on Kabul with long-range missiles, thereby martyring our innocent people. This action of the enemy is being carried out in two ways. First, as we pushed them back from the security belt of Kabul, they resorted to various methods. The first method, unfortunately, is that the leaders of the extremists, by offering large sums of money, bring these missiles and place them in various corners and angles of the valleys and mountains and fire on the cities. Their other method involves the Arab Wahhabis. [passage indistinct] They carry out by themselves these actions on our Kabul citizens—despite the fact that the territory of Afghanistan and particularly around Kabul is geographically very complicated. However, we were able, despite these complications, to inflict losses on the extremists through our mopping-up operations, with air and artillery strikes, and at the same time using the Armed Forces.

I should tell you that during our mopping-up operations which were carried out in the 12 zones of Kabul, we arrested large numbers of the extremists along with their documents. Also, I can mention briefly some of the arms and ammunition that we seized in the zones around Kabul.

I can tell you that during the recent mopping-up and search operations around Kabul, we seized 18 mortar shells, 400 missiles, 12 boxes of Kalashnikov shells, 11 boxes of DShK's shells, 11 boxes of machine-gun shells, 20 boxes of hand grenades, 62 missile systems, 20 Saqr-30 missiles, as well as other types of weapons and ammunition. This shows that they are not giving up their sinister actions against our innocent people.

We have taken specific and special measures against other methods such as terrorism, explosions, and other such actions that they carry out inside Kabul. We are ready to show these on television to our compatriots and to expose such people.

[Correspondent] Thank you. I want to ask you another question. According to some rumors, a number of armed extremist groups have refrained from firing missiles on Kabul, even though the firing of missiles has increased in comparison to the past. What is the reason for this?

[Lodin] I should tell you once again that this information is correct. A number of the armed extremist groups deployed around Kabul truly stopped firing at the city. The reason is that these groups are people who are from the same localities, and they do not want to fire on our citizens. However, the extremist leaders use tactics [to prevent this]. One is that they place extremist groups from other regions in those regions where their groups do not want to fire on Kabul, and with money and pressure of [passage indistinct]. The second aspect of this issue is that Saudi Wahhabis bring huge sums of money and heavy weapons to encourage these transported groups—the groups that have been brought from other regions—to fire on our citizens. Also, I should repeat that the Saudi Wahhabis, with the cooperation and guidance of U.S. experts, carry out such actions against our citizens.

Despite the fact that they carry out all these actions, I can tell you, our esteemed co-citizens, that we have been able to prevent through our specific plans, 90 percent of the terrorist criminal actions, explosions, and missile attacks. For example, the explosion which took place in Kabul [date not specified], and the terrorists who come to Kabul are under surveillance and control. Regarding the explosion which took place in Pashtunistan Street, we have arrested its perpetrators and handed them over to the law. Another group of people who are trying to enter Kabul and cause explosions in Kabul [words indistinct] will be arrested and handed over to the security forces.

Also, I should tell you that in recent days we have seized a large amount of explosives from various parts of Kabul and have prevented explosions.

Fortunately there is today among our Armed Forces a spirit of self-sacrifice, bravery, dand heroism to defend the revolution, homeland, and implement the national reconciliation policy in our country. They display great heroism and self-sacrifice.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your interview, esteemed Lt Gen Muhammad Afzel Lodin, first deputy defense minister and commander of the Kabul garrison. Thank you again for accepting our invitation.

[Lodin] Thank you. [end recording]

Fighting in Nangarhar, Qandahar Provinces Noted
LD1408082289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0512 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 13, BAKHTAR—The military detachments in Nangarhar Province carried out mopping up operations in different directions, outside Jalalabad city, and thus obtained a large quantity of weapons.

The joint forces of the enemy, supported by Pakistani Army Corps No. 11, fired with heavy weapons on the security posts and residential areas of Sorkh Rud and Chapliar Khwar as a result of which a personnel of the armed forces was killed and another injured. The detachments of the armed forces there carried out a counter-attack as a result of which eleven persons were killed and twenty two others injured.

Similarly, the extremist bands fired with heavy weapons on some areas of Paktia Province killing one member of the Armed Forces and injuring another. The detachments of the Armed Forces conducted a counter-attack, as a result of which 40 enemies were killed and 35 injured in the related areas of Paktia Province including that of Khowst Grand District.

The extremists also fired heavy shells on the provinces of Qandahar and Laghman killing three persons and injuring five others in Laghman Province. Owing to a counter-attack by the detachments of the Armed Forces stationed in those provinces, five enemies were killed in Qandahar Province and 15 of them in Laghman Province. A large quantity of their weapons were also destroyed.

Fierce clashes have recently occurred between the different rival extremist bands, supported by Pakistan, in the related areas of Grishk District, Helmand Province.

Ten persons of belligerent sides were killed and ten others were injured as a result of the clashes.

According to another report, twenty five of our countrymen who had gone to Pakistan from Girmseir [placename as received] District, Helmand Province, to Pakistan, returned home on Aug. 12.

After having received necessary assistance, they were transferred to their residential areas and restored their peaceful life.

Kabul Radio Cites Successes Against Rebel Groups
LD1508084989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] As a result of blows inflicted by armed forces units based in Nangarhar, 21 members of the Pakistan-backed groups were killed and a number were wounded. Various types of weapons and ammunition were destroyed or seized by the security forces.

An Armed Forces source told a reporter from BAKHTAR's military section that the defeated enemy, supported by the artillery of Pakistan's XI Corps, fired heavy weapons on residential areas and security posts in Sorkh Rud, Samar Kheyl, and (Shaykh Misry) as a result of which four people, including Armed Forces personnel and civilians were wounded. The source added that the heroic and brave units of the area inflicted fatal blows on enemy centers, as a result of which 21 of the enemy were killed and 35 others were wounded. Among those killed were a number of group ringleaders, Pakistani military, and Saudi Wahhabis. Two recoilless guns, seven sets of rocket launchers, two mortars, 12 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, and two arms depots belonging to the enemy were destroyed. As many as 39 rocket launchers, 290 mines, and 195 tank shells were captured.

The source added that criminals associated with Pakistan fired heavy weapons on some areas of Khowst Major District. As a result, two members of the Armed Forces were wounded. Armed Forces units in the area returned fire and 19 of the enemies were crushed and 30 others were wounded.

According to another report, as a result of reciprocal blows by the Armed Forces against groups associated with Pakistan in Qandahar Province, seven of the enemy forces were killed, and 11 others were wounded. Two vehicles, one tractor, and 10 mules loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Another report says that people associated with the Wahhabi murderer Sayyaf fired long-range weapons on security posts and residential areas of Tarin Kowt city, in the center of Oruzgan, as a result of which a number of civilians and members of the Armed Forces were wounded. As a result of fire returned by Armed Forces units based in Oruzgan, 24 Wahhabi criminals, including a number of their ringleaders, were killed and 20 others were wounded. Two rocket launchers and 40 shells, three machineguns together with 3,785 rounds of ammunition, two radios, and many of their infantry weapons were captured by the security forces.

Mujahidin Kill 90 Soldiers, 1 Officer

BK1508084489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have conducted regular attacks on Qandahar airport and Kabul regime's command posts, including those in (Pagnari) area on last Thursday and Friday [10 and 11 August]. According to AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, 90 soldiers and an officer of Kabul regime forces were killed in the attack and a security post in the area was destroyed.

Another report says a militia commander along with his 45 men surrendered to the mujahidin during their attack on military posts in (Preshak) District headquarters last week. Meanwhile, Kabul regime forces are reported to be expanding their security belt around the capital from 30 to 60 km in face of reports that mujahidin had been supplied with new longer range rockets. The United States last month said it was providing the mujahidin with new sophisticated weapons to counteract the (?challenging) unprecedented levels of military supplies to Kabul regime by the Soviet Union.

Bangladesh

Ershad Accepts Matin's Resignation

BK1408132889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 14 (AFP)—Bangladesh Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Matin resigned Monday [14 August], officials said.

The move came two days after President Hussain Mohammed Ershad named another deputy premier, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, as the country's new prime minister to replace Moudud Ahmed, who was appointed vice-president.

Mr Matin headed the Ministry of Health and Family Planning and was senior to Mr Zafar Ahmed in the cabinet.

The officials said Mr Ershad had accepted Mr Matin's resignation but gave no reasons for the decision. The president left early Monday on a two-day visit to Iraq.

Pakistani Offical Discusses Bihari Repatriation

BK1308161489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 13 (AFP)—Efforts to repatriate to Pakistan some 258,000 Biharis stranded in Bangladesh are being delayed by political pressure from Pakistan's Sind Province on Islamabad, a Pakistani opposition leader said here Sunday [13 August].

Syed Mazhar Ali, a leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, told reporters that the Biharis' return would begin when Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto felt "politically secure."

Mr Ali, who arrived here Friday heading a three member delegation, said the process of repatriation was being delayed because Ms Bhutto's government was "under serious political pressure from Sind Province."

He said some people in Sind were opposed to the resettlement of the Biharis in their province because of population balance problems.

The Biharis are presently housed in 66 refugee camps in Bangladesh and have been campaigning for the past 18 years to go to Pakistan.

East Pakistan gained independence from Pakistan to become Bangladesh after a nine month liberation war in 1971. East Pakistan was formed after independence from Britain and partition with India in 1947.

The Biharis, mostly immigrants from India's eastern state of Bihar in 1947, were stranded in Bangladesh following the 1971 war. They were accused of supporting the Pakistan Army in repressing the Bangladesh liberation war.

Mr Ali said chief minister of Pakistan's Punjab Province, Nawaz Sharif, had offered support towards the rehabilitation of the Biharis.

"The Bihari problem is a problem for the government and people of Pakistan and the Bangladesh Government has nothing to do with it," he added. "I am going to place the issue to the Senate and the national parliament."

The Jeddah-based Rabta al-Alam al-Islami, or World Muslim League, has already raised 300 million dollars for the repatriation of the Biharis and was awaiting a "green signal" from Pakistan to start their operation, he said.

Meanwhile, at the request of the visiting Pakistani leaders, several Bihari leaders on Saturday called off their 48-day rotation hunger strike which they started as a part of their campaign for repatriation.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Ershad

BK1308131489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] The foreign minister of the Maldives, Fathulla Jameel, discussed bilateral and regional matters with President Ershad at a meeting in Dhaka Saturday [12 August].

Earlier, on his arrival in Dhaka, the Maldives foreign minister told newsmen that all member-nations of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] are keen to develop the organization and they are moving toward the cherished goal. Mr Fathulla Jameel said consultations among the member-nations are necessary for greater cohesion of the organization, and his visit is designed toward that direction.

The Maldives foreign minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

Concludes Visit, Departs 13 Aug

BK1308160489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel left Dhaka today at the end of his 2-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr Jameel called on President Ershad and held successful talks with Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud. The talks related to strengthening bilateral ties and consolidating SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

India

Gandhi Addresses Nation on Independence Day

BK1508073589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0200 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Independence Day address by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi delivered in New Delhi on 15 August 1989—live]

[Text] Dear countrymen, I would like to congratulate you on your Independence Day today. I would like to offer my best wishes today to the people from Kanyakumari to Karakoram, from Kutch to the eastern corner of Arunachal Pradesh, and all the Indians who are living in various countries outside India.

Forty-two years have elapsed since India attained independence. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru unfurled our tricolor flag here in this Red Fort for the first time in independent India. Likewise, even today, when I hoisted the flag, I felt as if not only my hands were unfurling it, but the hands of 800 million people of India were also with me because this flag is unique. Under the same tricolor flag, we fought the war of independence. Under this flag alone, we have stabilized the country, kept up its independence, and have developed it. When we hoist this flag on Independence Day, it symbolizes the freedom and independence of India as well as the freedom of every Indian and Hindustani.

Today, on Independence Day, we remember the loss of our freedom fighters, whose names were effaced and lost in history. We do not know them. The sacrifices of thousands of people, who are not among us, have been lost in history. Also, we wish to thank those freedom fighters who are with us. Whenever we think about independent India, [the faces of] our freedom fighters appear before us. They made great sacrifices, fought in great conflicts, and faced all sorts of challenges to liberate, strengthen, and move India forward.

But today, our special attention goes to Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri [former prime minister of India], and Indira Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi showed us a new path in our war of independence. Jawahar Lal Nehru directed that independence on a new path for the creation of a prosperous nation. Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi faced all sorts of challenges to make India strong and to protect its unity and integrity.

Today, we should also remember that India's freedom movement was a significant revolutionary movement. There were only a few movements of this kind earlier—that of the United States of America, France, and the Soviet Union. Later, only the revolutionary movement of India emerged in the world. But, while these three revolutions were affected by waves of violence, India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi showed a new path [of nonviolence].

When India was dependent, in the midst of slavery, Mahatma Gandhi brought out a wave of our heritage [principles]. Following that wave, he restored our historic and cultural path to us. India became strong on that principled path. On the same path of principles, we won independence and on those principles alone we have become strong and have remained independent. Those principles, which Mahatma Gandhi taught us, were extracted from our history and culture and restored to us. They were not new. Nonviolence was there above all. When Mahatma Gandhi used to speak about nonviolence, he attached great significance to it. For him, nonviolence was not mere abstinence from violence but there should not even be any feelings of violence that must be suppressed. He led us toward the path of nonviolence, truth, tolerance, and compassion. And he taught us that India's history and heritage clearly show us that humanity is one—whether we belong to any religion, any region, speak any language or of any color. Mahatma Gandhi gave us strength through these few principles. Through these principles alone we obtained strength, attained independence. By following these principles, we are able to remain independent.

Along with this, Mahatma Gandhi taught us one more lesson: If there should be any development in India and if the freedom should really reach the hands of people, then independence and development should begin in the villages in India. Only then, can we say that we are really independent. Mahatma Gandhi made great efforts, but there were some opportunistic forces who did not even allow him to fulfill this task. His hands were tied, and the process of our development did not really start in the villages at that time. The whole nation sincerely loved Mahatma Gandhi. It is difficult to describe in words the strong and deep bonds between the people of India and Mahatma Gandhi. Even then, there were some people among us who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi. The communal forces assassinated him. We should carefully understand that the objective of the communal forces which assassinated Mahatma Gandhi was not simply his assassination, but to see that India should stumble, fall, and perish before it could stand on its feet. But India did not stumble, because Mahatma Gandhi bestowed it with such a strength and power that India would never fall down.

After Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru led the country on the path of development and national reconstruction to carve out a place for India in the world. From this very Red Fort, Jawahar Lal Nehru addressed the Indian people on many occasions. On the day of India's independence, Nehru reminded us how Congress had made an appointment with destiny many years ago. Now after 42 years of our independence, we have the opportunity to fulfill Nehru's pledge. Were Nehru with us today, he would see how India has been built up on the foundations he laid. I am confident Nehru's heart would be filled with pride after seeing today's India. This year marks Nehru's birth centenary. Had he the opportunity to see India's achievements of the past 42 years, were he to see our farmers, our farm laborers, our workers, India's women, children, our scientists, and youths, our forces, our industries, and our development, I am fully confident he would have been greatly pleased and would have viewed India with pride. But at the same time, he would also witness some weaknesses and the unfinished tasks that are side by side with the progress made. From this very Red Fort, Pandit Nehru reminded us of Mahatma Gandhi's words that we will not rest until we have wiped the tears of every individual of India. Even today, we have not been able to wipe away everybody's tears and hence the time for rest has not come. We have much work to do. There is a need for great struggle and sacrifices. [applause] Pandit Nehru had wanted to accomplish the task of establishing village-level administration, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and for this purpose, he initiated the village council system. But we could not follow the paths shown by Pandit Nehru. We could not fulfill that task because the power brokers that he did not allow the village council system to succeed. They did not allow their power to be transferred into the hands of the Indian masses. After introducing the village council system, Pandit Nehru did not live for many more years. Otherwise, he too would have fought firmly against this power brokering and would have vested the Indian masses with powers which Mahatma Gandhi had snatched from the British to give to the Indian people. [applause]

Indira Gandhi devoted her entire life to ensuring the welfare of India's poor and backward classes. Her every action was devoted to improving the lot of the backward and suppressed people. Her first initiative in this regard was the nationalization of the banks so that the capital might reach the hands of the Indian people. Today, when we talk of the performance of the banks, no question arises about them. But we have to remember that when the banks were nationalized 20 years ago, almost every bank branch in India's rural areas was providing help and its capital benefited the poor masses. Even in an independent India, money was in the control of the rich people only. By nationalizing the banks, Indira Gandhi changed this situation and utilized the country's wealth for the task of helping the poor and eliminating poverty from India. [applause] With the launching of the 20-point program by Indira Gandhi, the level of poverty in India began to decline. We saw for the first time that benefits of big schemes, and projects began to percolate down to the poor and backward classes. Indira Gandhi devoted her entire life to fighting and eliminating the capitalistic forces.

The only thing to which Indira Gandhi gave precedence over the task of removing poverty was to ensure India's unity, integrity, and independence. She took every possible step to strengthen India. She never took a step which might have provided an opportunity for the forces that wished to weaken India to raise their heads.

Even Indira Gandhi had to sacrifice her life to communal forces. Once again an effort was made to disintegrate India. As an attempt was made to disintegrate our

India with the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, so too another attempt was made to tear Hindustan [India] apart with the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

I remember that about 4 and ½ to 5 years ago when Indira Gandhi was assassinated, India was passing through a crucial phase and difficult days. Black clouds were hovering over the entire country. Movements aimed at disintegrating the country were being launched in every nook and cranny of the country. This was, perhaps, the biggest crisis India faced since the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. A campaign was being carried on in Punjab to divide the country. Some issues were being raised in Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, and the hill areas of Darjeeling. In the south, some weakening effects were being felt in our country due to the events in Sri Lanka. The violence witnessed in Delhi was, perhaps, on a scale never before seen. If someone looked at the situation in India those days, it would have been difficult for him to believe that India would overcome this crucial period. But today all this is behind us.

I saw only one task before me that November [after the assassination of Indira Gandhi], and that was to somehow take India out of this darkness and move it forward on the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi, Panditji [Jawahar Lal Nehru], and Indira Gandhi, to fulfill their dreams and those of the Indian people.

The plan of Indira Gandhi's assassins was to disintegrate India. This conspiracy was not hatched in our country, but came from abroad and was imposed on us. The design behind this conspiracy was to finish off India, to disintegrate India. The assassination of Indira Gandhi was the first step toward this aim.

The traitors took Indira Gandhi away from the people of India. They took away my mother from me. But I made a resolve that I would not allow them to succeed [applause], and would not allow them to take away our country from us [applause], or allow them to disintegrate the country. We would be ready to make every sacrifice needed or pay any price, but we would not allow the weakening of India or disintegration of India. [applause]

If my mother—Indira Gandhi—taught me anything, it was that no sacrifice is big enough for the country. [applause] Whatever the sacrifice that has to be made, whatever the difficulties that have to be faced, or even if one's life has to be laid down, it must be done. I am willing to lay down my life for the country and make any sacrifice for it.

We must carry forward the struggle started by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi. The same movement is to be continued because the movement started by Mahatma Gandhi did not only aim at gaining independence for India, it also wanted to give a new path to the poor of the world—the only path on which the world civilization could be preserved. Now, the world is slowly realizing that humanity can be saved only by pursuing the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru, who put forward before the world for the first time the new ideology and explained to the superpowers that groupism [gutwadi] will not contribute to the development of the world or save mankind. They said that a new outlook has to be adopted—the outlook of non-violence, truth, mercy, and tolerance, and above all equality of human beings.

This was the strength underlying India, and by following this path we have been strengthened. But on this path we had to face and overcome various kinds of forces, which we did through many struggles. We have faced fundamentalist forces on many occasions. Even today we face this challenge, because the fundamental forces have not been finished. Today we are seeing how these fundamentalist forces are raising their heads to take away the rights of women. We are seeing that instead of building the country, or serving the people, or engaging themselves in development work, or strengthening India, or defending its integrity and sovereignty, these fundamental forces are engaged in revelry. This is not the way to build India and make it a strong nation. [applause]

Likewise, the forces trying to weaken and disintegrate the country are still raising their heads. It is a matter of great regret for us. I had earlier said that had Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi been alive today, they would have been pleased with India's progress. Their hearts would have been filled with pride. But at the same time, they would also have felt sad after observing some of our weaknesses. Had they seen that even today such fundamentalist forces are alive and that anti-state elements are roaming about openly, sitting in our parliament, supporting even the assassins of Indira Gandhi, visiting strongholds of arms [in terrorist-affected areas] and accepting honors there, and how some support the proposals that will weaken or disintegrate India, their hearts would have filled with sadness. I wish Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, and Indira Gandhi could see how even today communal forces are raising their heads and politics are being run on the basis of communalism; and also how the people are pursuing politics, forgetting the lessons taught by Mahatma Gandhi.

There are some people in our political life who have abandoned principles. This is a matter of greatest anguish because the day India deviated from the path of principles, we started becoming slaves. We became slaves by not following that path. Even today, the same sort of weakness may exist. We had acquired strength by following only the path of principles. It is regrettable that in Indian politics today the people only talk about temporary gains and compromise, but very few people are eager to talk about principles. We should remember that when anti-state elements and secessionist and communal forces came together, India was divided and partitioned. This we should remember and today all our energies should be devoted to see that these anti-state

forces, these fundamentalist, imperialist, racist, communal, and sectarian forces do not enter into an agreement because this will lead to the division of the country.

This is a fact that the Indian people have to remember and keep in mind, because if the Indian people allow the aforesaid forces to come together and gain strength, then India will disintegrate and will lose its independence. India will become a slave and fall apart. Thus, years of struggle will be in vain as a result of this opportunistic agreement. We must insure that these forces do not come together and we fight to finish off these forces and we must not leave this fight until all these forces are finished, have left the territory of India, and do not appear again in India. No matter what struggles we have to face, what challenges we have to face, and what sacrifices we have to make, we will not flinch from any sacrifice to save India from these forces.

If we look back at the past 4-5 years, then we can see that India has achieved great progress and made great strides during these years. If we look toward India's unity and integrity, the gloom that was seen in October and November of 1984 has disappeared and we see the light of progress today. India is rapidly advancing forward. Even though we faced a devastating drought in the intervening period, India's agricultural sector grew very rapidly. Indian farmers worked with utmost dedication, faced the challenge posed by the drought, and helped India overcome this problem. At the same time, Indian workers contributed toward the progress of the country's industries. But, most importantly, the new impetus we provided to the 20-point program launched by Indira Gandhi and to the new Jawahar employment scheme we initiated in the Nehru birth centenary year in order to eliminate poverty, raise the standard of living of India's poor, and strengthen the condition of the weaker sections of the country has yielded great results.

I wish to thank all Indians for their contributions, without which we could not have realized all these objectives. I wish to thank India's farmers who helped us achieve self-sufficiency in food. I wish to thank Indian laborers and farm workers whose labor and sweat have enabled us to industrialize India, which has emerged as a new power in the world.

I want to express my gratitude to Indian soldiers who have made many sacrifices and struggled in recent years to defend the sovereignty and integrity of India and maintain peace in our region. The Indian soldiers and Army officers have enhanced the prestige of India and kept India strong—whether on our frontiers, high on mountains, on glaciers, our Navy men on the high seas, in the Maldives to help our friendly neighboring country, or in Sri Lanka to provide the protection and security of Tamils. [applause]

Similarly, Indian scientists have developed new techniques to take India to the frontiers [preceding word in English] of science, thereby making us a force to be reckoned with. Our scientists and technologists have made innovations in different fields, such as the test firing of the Prithvi or Agni [surface-to-surface] missiles [applause], biotechnology that helps farmers, and new medicines to eradicate poverty, and unemployment and make India strong.

I want to thank my entire administration, even though it has some shortcomings and weaknesses along with its many strengths. I thank them because without an alert and strong administration India could not have become strong or pursued the path of development and enjoyed peace and stability; its integrity and unity could not have been strengthened to such an extent; and India could not have found such a place in the comity of nations.

I want to thank our business and industrialist community, because they have helped accelerate the industrialization of India. I am grateful to our public sector because they have fully contributed toward India's progress.

I am specially grateful to Indian women [applause], because in recent years they have imparted a new strength to India. They are pursuing a new path to end fundamentalism and eliminate obscurantism.

I want to specially commend India's youth. Our youth have been given an opportunity for the first time to participate in Indian politics [voting age was lowered to 18 years]. We have full confidence in the Indian youth because they fought in our freedom war and defended our frontiers. Today, once again, we have full faith in India's youth, that they will shun and eradicate fundamentalism, feudalism, castism, and communalism from the Indian territory to make India a completely free country.

Today, I want to thank the minority communities of India who have contributed toward building India, making it strong and leading it on the path of progress and development. I want to especially thank India's untouchables and tribals, because India's development is linked to their progress. As they have progressed, India has moved forward. If all these Indian people had not worked as one for the strength of the country, India today would not be an independent country and would not have come out of that dark period. Because of your work, India today has carved out a place of pride in the comity of nations, and we will proudly show the world that nobody can hold India back. India is now advancing forward on the path of progress and strength. [applause]

Much has been accomplished over these years, but much more has to be done. There are shortcomings as well. Mahatma Gandhi talked about giving a system of self-rule to villages. Jawahar Lal Nehru tried to introduce village council administration. Now, for the first time, we are devolving the power to the people of India [at the grass-roots level] through the passage of two bills [to

strengthen village and urban local bodies] in the Lok Sabha. For the first time, self-rule is coming into being in the true sense. Your rule is coming into being.

However, we still see that there are forces opposed to the strengthening of the people of India. They do not want to see the Indian people's hands being strengthened. They do not want to see the Indian people carve their own path of progress. The power brokers and forces of capitalism, fundamentalism, and feudalism are today coming together to prevent devolution of power to the people where it belongs. It is sad to see that they have also been joined by traitors and communal forces.

We should face them and confront them, because only after meeting this challenge will we be able to make the people of India strong. We will be able to grant social justice to them only after overcoming this struggle. Only after confronting them will we be able to make the weaker sections of the people strong and uplift them. For the first time, we are granting special power in politics to the weaker sections in India. In our democracy, women, untouchables, and tribals are getting special powers. We have taken special steps to see that criminals [preceding word in English] and bad elements do not enter our democracy. For the first time, stringent measures have been taken to keep them away from democracy and throw them out of politics. Whatever the challenge, we will fulfill this task.

After this, at least two more major tasks are to be fulfilled. We have reserved them for the forthcoming years. First is the matter of justice. Many things have happened in India, but we are not able to say sincerely from our hearts that justice has been provided at the grass-roots level [preceding two words in English] and at the village level. I do not think we will be able to say that justice is being granted to them, as it involves longer time and larger expenses to get justice. In the years to come, we should see that this justice is granted. We will see that justice is granted in the same manner, as we are strengthening village council institutions to strengthen politics, bringing speedy development, and strengthening urban councils to bring development to Indian cities and reap benefits therein. If it is necessary to change the structure, we are ready to do it. But we are not prepared to mete out injustice to the common man in India.

Today there is an opportunity before us by which we can present India before the world in a new form. We can make India as great as it was before coming under bondage. Before India came under bondage, people used to come to India from different corners of the world to seek their fortune, acquire wealth, scientific knowledge, and wisdom. But India became weak by being bound for hundreds of years. It became impoverished and weak. Today, for the first time, there is an opportunity to restore India to its original position.

Poverty should be eradicated from India and injustice should be done away with. India should be made self-reliant. We should make it a great power and present it before the world—but not like the superpowers who suppress others and flourish. On the path of the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi, India will not suppress anybody. India will wage a war for the interests of the poor in the world. India will bring a new thinking which will end spheres of influence, uphold humanity, and save civilization and carry it forward.

Today we have an opportunity to make this kind of India, and make it great. Today I would like all of us together to resolve to make India great and strong and develop it further. I thank all of you. I have full confidence that on this auspicious Independence Day every Indian will firmly resolve to make India great and take it forward. Thank you. Hail India.

Soviet Vice President Meets Counterpart 14 Aug

BK1508011289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] The Vice President of the Soviet Union, Mrs V.S. Shevchenko, called on the Vice President, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today.

Mrs Shevchenko is leading the Soviet delegation to India to participate in the 42d anniversary of India's independence and 18th anniversary celebration of the Indo-Soviet treaty. The two leaders discussed bilateral matters, including friendly ties between the people of India and the USSR.

Maldives Foreign Minister Jameel Pays Visit

Meets With Gandhi

BK1108130689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] The foreign minister of Maldives, Mr Jameel, called on the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Mr Jameel is in the capital for consultations among SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries and for bilateral discussions. He had a meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, also.

According to an official spokesman, Mr Jameel's talks related to the forthcoming summit of the nonaligned nations at Belgrade. One of the important items for bilateral discussions was the question of security of smaller states and measures to strengthen UN procedures to safeguarding them.

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK1208125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] The foreign minister of the Maldives, Mr Fathulla Jameel, left New Delhi today after a 3-day official visit to India. He was seen off at the airport among others by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. During his stay in the capital, Mr Jameel met the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and Mr Natwar Singh. His talks related to the forthcoming Belgrade nonaligned summit and bilateral matters.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech to Families of POW's, MIA's

LD1408211289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to a gathering of families of POW's and MIA's on 14 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. No doubt one of the most important occasions in the Islamic Republic, which quite rightly is marked to coincide with this historic occasion annually, is the day of the POW's and MIA's. We all know that on 11 Muharram [14 August], one of the most tragic events in Islam's history took place. Prisoners were taken on a day like today and the occasion was unprecedented in the history of Islam. And the Islamic ummah will not witness such captivity again [after the martyrdom of the third Shiite imam, Husayn, his family was taken prisoner in Karbala' and moved to Damascus]. Those who were taken prisoner belonged to the dynasty of divine revelation and the prophet. They were the dearest and most valued people in Islam's history. The women who were taken prisoner and paraded in the bazaar and streets were the most chaste and modest women in Islamic society in that era. Those who took these dear ones prisoner had no respect for Islam. They had nothing to do with Islam. They were the most malicious and dastardly people of their era. On 11 Muharram, the family members of the prophet and 'Ali, son of Abu Talib—peace be upon them—were taken prisoner. Their memory is left to us now and shall remain forever. However, it remains as one of the bitterest memories.

Of course, being taken prisoner in that era was different from being imprisoned today. Today the prisoners are individual soldiers, officers, combatants or—in the case of the sinister Ba'thist regime—civilians, who are kept in a prison camp and away from their families and relatives for some time. Naturally it is difficult, but it is completely different from what happened in those days. On 11 Muharram, the women, children, and remaining men were taken prisoner and were humiliated, insulted, kept hungry, and exposed to the cold and heat. They were paraded in the bazaar and streets, kept in the most difficult conditions, and constantly tortured.

A point that I must mention here to you, families of the POW's and the MIA's, is the fact that you are classed as one of the most devoted strata of this revolution. After the families of the martyrs, you hold the highest status. Of course, the families of the MIA's feel more anguish. A missing soldier is either martyred or taken prisoner. Both possibilities exist. Their burden is heavier. They suffer more, but at the same time there is a glimmer of hope in their hearts that maybe one day they will see their loved ones. I pray to God that their wishes come true. The families of our dear POW's, however, are certain that their loved ones will come back to them sooner or later. God willing, they will come back in good health, highly experienced, and hardened for life by the suffering in the enemy's prison.

The martyrs and their families have the highest status. No one should be compared with them. Below their rank, however, come the same families of the POW's, MIA's, and the war disabled. No doubt you, the families of the POW's and the MIA's, have played a highly significant and crucial role in safeguarding the revolution's honor. The more patient you are, the more you thank God, and the more you understand the important pride of suffering for the sake of God, the more God will bestow his divine honor, respect, and reward upon you. Therefore, you, the families, should be proud that you are part of the strata which served the revolution, the strata which can bring honor and prestige in their country. You are members of the strata which will reap a divine reward if you wait. There is no doubt about this. It is a great honor.

Now for our POW's, our loved ones who are in captivity: One point I mention about those loved ones, the emotions of a prisoner, in particular when the prisoner feels that he bears some responsibility, those are special emotions. Those who have spent some time in captivity and who themselves have felt this responsibility more or less understand this. When some of the dear freed prisoners also come and speak, the spoken word turns into certainty. Our POW's are among those whose names will be perpetuated in the history of our revolution and Iran. Why? Because our POW's have safeguarded the honor of Islam, the country, and the revolution in the worst of conditions. They did not surrender to the enemy. They never lost their confidence. What ruins a human being and destroys him is a loss of confidence. Some people look quite good, but they have lost their confidence. They have lost within themselves the feelings of hope, honor, glory, and confidence. Some are not like that. What Islam says—Glory is for God, the messenger, and the believer [preceding passage in Arabic]—is a part of the glory which belongs to the believers. The believer feels glorious even in the worst of conditions. He does not feel weak. He does not feel weak in comparison to the enemy. Why? Because he has not lost his internal strength and morale.

It happened frequently inside the taghut [the shah's] prisons: The prisoner, living in a cell in the worst of conditions, still felt more powerful, strong and confident

than the person who was sitting before him, behind a table and with a weapon, a whip, with apparent power and money. The other was more shaky than he was, because he was destroyed inside and had no support, whereas the prisoner was relying on God. The believer is like this. Our loved ones who are in captivity have safeguarded these internal strengths, self-confidence, dignity, as you yourselves know.

The conditions, of course, have been different. Some camps have normal conditions, some severe conditions, some even harsher conditions. But the people whose hearts are enlightened with belief—the majority of our dear captives are so, apart from a very small number—the majority have managed to keep their glory, internal strength, and Muslim identity and personality in all conditions. The enemy has become weak and unable to destroy and break them. This was one point about the greatness of our POW's. Maybe when you receive their letters, you know this for yourselves. I only mention these for the Iranian nation to know that their dear fighters were brave as lions not only in war but they remained as brave and strong as lions even in captivity. This was the first point.

The second point is that our war apparently ended at the war fronts and in the trenches. Now supposedly we are in the cease-fire period. The enemy's obstinacy and the Iraqi regime rulers' bad intentions have prevented the establishment of some sort of peace so that both nations may breathe easily and pursue their everyday life. The enemy has preserved the no-war-no-peace situation, although there is no war at the front. At a time when we have finished the war at the war front and in the trenches, the battle by our captive strugglers is however continuing in the prison camps. They are still resisting. This is the second point that you dear mothers, wives, sisters, fathers, and brothers have to be proud of, if you are aware of this, and of course you are aware of it.

Who can deny the pride of a soldier who is fighting bravely for his revolution, religion, country, and nation? Is there any greater pride than that of a person who struggles for his compatriots, his country, the revolution, and his belief. This is a very great pride. Very well, this pride took some of our fighters at the front to the end, but for the dear POWs this pride still continues. They must resist. Our POW's will be freed. There is no doubt about that. Is it possible that the enemy could keep the POW's for long?

I announce that the enemy cannot make unjustified demands using our prisoners, who are our dear ones. [chants of "God is great," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel"] They want to use the prisoners issue to force the Iranian nation to make concessions. Is such a thing possible? If our nation wanted to make concessions, why fight for 8 years? If our nation wanted to accept anyone's unjust demands and bullying, then why would it make a revolution?

The previous system's greatest sin and mistake was that it left the country to world arrogance to do what they liked, to the hands of the United States, to the hands of the big powers.

Today, Iraq is not the only neighboring country that has confronted us, fought us, and imposed a war on us for 8 years. That was the same United States, the same West.

Those who want to make comparisons should not make a mistake in comparing Iran-Iraq relations today and their relations before the revolution. Before the revolution, during the Pahlavi regime, the same people who are standing face to face with the Iranian nation were the defenders of the illegal regime of Iran, the traitor regime of Pahlavi. Why? Because the Shah left the country to them with respect. Today the Iranian nation has risen against the world enemies, against the world devourers and plunderers, and has managed to control the country and cut off the hands of the enemies. However, the same old masters and devourers are exerting pressure on us through Iraq and these kind of works in order that we surrender ourselves because their banquet in Iran has ended.

Is such a thing possible? Does the great Iranian nation accept surrender to anyone's unjust demands? Never! With the help of the Creator, we have not surrendered to any government or any power. Iraq is in its own place; the United States, the superpowers and all of them are together and still we will not surrender to them. [chanting]

We will not halt our efforts for even a second so that the Resolution 598 issue and the peace talks achieve something and the problems are resolved.

The officials, to be just, are working hard and with such endeavor, but we have said, and we say again, that we make no concessions. Until Iraq has withdrawn from the regions it has occupied—it is now inside our country—we will not go further than the first article of the resolution. This is what they want. They want the first article to be left as if it never existed. The first article says: Cease-fire and return to the borders. The [word indistinct] return is in the first article. They want us to pass over the first article and go on to the others, so that the issue of the return to borders is forgotten, so that this wound in Iran remains open. Is such a thing possible? The return to officially recognized borders is the prerequisite to any other move.

In their world propaganda, the Iraqis repeatedly ask Iran to come and hold direct negotiations. We have no objections. The evacuation must take place first, then we are ready to hold direct negotiations. If the opposing side would talk logically and reasonably, there would have not been such problems between us in the first place. The Iraqi regime is an illogical and unreasonable one. We act logically and reasonably; we act according to the norms accepted by the world, and we are not ready to make a

deal with anyone on the Iranian nation's rights. This is reason. The greatest right of a nation is its national sovereignty. It must be able to keep its sovereignty within its borders. They want to take this from the Iranian nation. They say: Come, let us exchange prisoners. They want to use the prisoners issue in order to take away the Iranian nation's national sovereignty on its territory and along its borders. Is such a thing possible?

First, evacuation. First, securing the Iranian nation's national sovereignty on its territory. That means the return of the enemy to behind international borders. Then everything is possible. When this takes place we will end the prisoners issue. The next day we will negotiate on various problems.

We see that the arrogant world and the governments who were talking about peace were showing their hostility and malice toward the revolution, toward Islam and the Iranian nation. The same ones who were screaming about UN Resolution 598, as Iran remembers, in all the discussions, in all the meetings, the presidents, the kings, these reactionaries were all talking about Resolution 598 and now they have all stopped, all problems were a result of the fact that the Iraqi regime was no longer threatened by the strugglers of Islam. Now that there is a cease-fire and that the threat has ended, nothing is important to them.

In all issues the United States is like that. In this same way in Lebanon's affairs, the United States carried out the most malicious deeds against the Lebanese and Muslim people. They persuaded Israel, their lackey, to resort to hostage-taking and abduction. They took off in a helicopter to another country, to a town belonging to another state, to overtly and openly abduct an honorable clergymen from his house. Can anyone give a more blatant and ugly example of terrorism and hostage-taking in the world? What other government would do such a thing? Israel did it. This would not have been possible without U.S. persuasion and the fact that Israel was certain of U.S. support. Why? Because they wanted to extort and blackmail the strugglers and combatants of Lebanon, the Muslims of Lebanon. They wanted to force all Lebanese factions to strive to free the U.S. hostages; and to involve other governments which they suspect of having links or motives in Lebanon's problems. That is, extortion by means of hostage-taking.

We have often said that we do not support hostage-taking. We have often said that our government was the first to have its staff taken hostage in Lebanon. Our charge d'affaires was taken hostage by the Phalangists who are supported by the United States. We strongly condemn the hostage takers, including the Phalangists, Israel and the U.S., which is their backer. We ourselves are not hostage takers and do not encourage hostage-taking either. But I am asking, in comparison with the various instances of hostage-taking in Lebanon, which should be condemned as the worst? The case in which a group of Lebanon's oppressed people, whom incidentally we do not know, captured a U.S. spy who went to their country, or the case in which Israel went to Lebanon and abducted a person from his own house? Which instance is uglier and should be condemned more strongly? If a Lebanese were to be asked: Why have you taken hostage a U.S. colonel or somebody else? He would answer: Well you see, sir, this person has come to my homeland and is spying on us. If he wants to avoid being captured, he should leave my home. But if you ask Israel or the United States why did you come and abduct Shaykh 'Ubayd, what answer could they give? Which is an uglier example of hostage-taking? And then the U.S. President would impudently say: We will not talk to hostage-takers. You support hostage-takers. Israel is the worst and most malicious hostage-taker and is your lackey and stooge.

This is the quality of their wickedness in international affairs which is far from just, humane and fair. The U.S. is like this. Iran, therefore, finds nothing more ridiculous and comical than the fact that the same United States sets preconditions for holding talks with Iran. It says: We will resume ties with Iran on the condition that they do this and that! In the eyes of the Iranian nation today you are the most hated government after the usurping Zionist government. Why should Iran restore ties or hold talks with you? Who has held talks with you in the system of the Islamic Republic? Our message to the U.S. is this: We, through the public media, warn U.S. statesmen that you will not be able to influence our great and revolutionary nation and our country's responsible officials through these methods and with these acts of intimidation and enticement.

Today, as in the past, we say that we do not want ties with the United States. As long as the United States maintains this position, we reject re-establishing relations with the United States. As long as U.S. policy is based on lies, deception, and crime; as long as U.S. policy is based on supporting such an evil government as Israel's and tyranny against the oppressed nations; and as long as the memory of the crimes committed against Iran by U.S. citizens are not compensated for—such as the memory of downing the plane, the freezing of the wealth and assets of Iran in the United States; as long as the situation remains like this, it will not be possible for us to hold talks with the U.S. Government or restore ties. [shouts of approval]

Thanks be to God, our nation is a nation which is awake, alive, and strong. We have no need of a government such as the U.S. Government for the well-being of our nation and the reconstruction of our nation and our country. We have very good existing and potential resources at our disposal, and we are able to tread the path of happiness and well-being of the Iranian nation without relying on our enemies. Of course, in international relations we still come across those who have not been so flagrantly and contemptuously hostile. We will cooperate with them—we have always said this. It has been so in

the past and it is thus today. But if there are people in the world who think that the officials of our country would, for the reconstruction of the country, stretch their hands—a begging hand at that!—toward the United States, they should know that they are gravely mistaken. Such a thing has not occurred and will on no account ever occur.

You, dear people of Iran, you rely on God and you have maintained your steadfastness, just like always. And you will again maintain it, God willing. We are witness to the fact that our nation is one of the strongest and most steadfast of nations. This nation is deserving of privilege, deserving of honor. A nation which understands its own worth and distances itself from humiliation and abjectness will be a strong nation. When you see nations that have fallen into helplessness and abjectness it is because they yielded to abjectness. A nation which is competent, intelligent, and active, which has jobs and work opportunities; which struggles and reconstructs—thanks to the almighty this is what this nation is—and it has faith in God. Through the unity of word, through the strength of management inside the country, through the all-rounded efforts and activities of officials and civil-servants and the masses of the people, and by the grace of God all difficulties will be solved and eliminated within their own appropriate time. [chanting] The enemy cannot pick on some of the difficulties that exist for all nations and imagine that these difficulties will make our people feeble and tired. This is not imaginable.

We hope, God willing, that our dear ones, both the POWs and MIA's, may be blessed by divine grace and glory, assistance, and favor while they are still in captivity. Second, God willing, may the release of these dear ones be arranged as soon as possible and may the eyes and hearts of their families and those awaiting them sparkle with joy at seeing them. God willing. Almighty God, in the name of Muhammad and his scion, grant your endurance, grace and favor to these dear families. [chants] May God's benedictions and peace be upon you.

Velayati on Purpose Behind Damascus Trip

LD1408172389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Velayati upon his departure for Syria by correspondent Badrakhshan; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Badrakhshan] Mr Velayati, please tell us the purpose of your trip to Syria.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During this trip, a message from his excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, esteemed President, will be presented to his excellency Hafiz al-Asad, esteemed president of Syria. We shall also be holding talks concerning bilateral relations and regional issues with other respected officials of brotherly Syria. In addition, bearing in mind the latest developments in Lebanon and the region, we shall be holding talks and meeting with our brothers and friends from different Islamic and nationalist groups. Coordination between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic and resistant Muslim and nationalist groups in Lebanon and Palestine is essential for confronting the plots of Zionism and their supporters—especially under the present circumstances, at a time when in parts of Lebanon, that is, in east Beirut, Michel 'Awn is inflicting the greatest of pressures on the people of Lebanon as a U.S. and Zionist mercenary, and he is dragging Lebanon to ruins. We are standing steadfast alongside the people of Lebanon and the lawful government of Lebanon in their confrontation with Zionism and its supporters. We hope that on this trip, just as in the past, we may be able to have effective and positive exchanges of opinions with our Syrian and Lebanese and Palestinian friends and brothers.

Responsibility for Beirut Clashes Viewed

LD1408135289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The recent clashes in Lebanon reached a climax yesterday. According to military experts, the intensity of these clashes was unprecedented in the course of the past 14 years. This is at a time when no hopes exist of finding a solution, albeit an interim one.

Yesterday's clashes reached a climax when the Druze Socialist Progressive Party, led by Walid Jumblat, announced that following clashes which lasted 2 hours, it had succeeded in capturing the Suq-al Gharb region. [passage omitted] Although Michele 'Awn, having condemned the Syrian Army for its part in the Suq-al Gharb clashes, announced that the attack had been defeated, contradictory reports indicate that this attack was a penetrating one launched by the Lebanese national forces as well as by the Palestinian forces opposed to 'Arafat.

The recent savage and bloody clashes were conducted in the wake of a few major developments. The tripartite Arab committee which was convened by the Arab summit for the purpose of finding a solution to the present crisis in Lebanon, announced the defeat of their efforts and somehow blamed the Syrian government for the deadlock in the negotiations. The Syrian foreign minister gave a vehement response to this allegation, accusing the tripartite committee of drawing no attention in their final communique to the stances adopted by Michele 'Awn, or the other forces and countries responsible for causing a deadlock in the activities.

Now, the western governments and specifically America, France, and a few Arab governments in the region, along with the tripartite Arab committee, are trying to put the blame on Syria for the present crisis and the recent intensive clashes. In fact, all pressures have at present

been directed toward Syria, while the leaders in Damascus are trying not to give in to this propaganda, and to free themselves of the blame of the protagonists in the clashes.

According to experts, these pressures which have been chiefly directed by America, are not unrelated to the issue of hostage-taking in Lebanon. With the abduction of Sheikh 'Ubayd, by Israel, followed by the execution of Colonel Higgins, the issue of hostages and hostage-taking in Lebanon was once again discussed on an extensive scale. Even though no solution has yet been found to this, it has been said that America is trying to cause Damascus to use its influence to free the hostages, by exerting pressure on Syria and portraying it as the one responsible for the clashes.

On the other hand, it is clear that not only the Lebanese crisis but also the Palestinian crisis is unlikely to be resolved without Syrian participation. America, France, and others intend to induce the leaders in Damascus to agree to the western plans for resolving the Lebanese crisis, and to negotiate with America by waging a propoganda attack.

Nevertheless, it is evident that all concessions are not in the hands of the western governments involved in Lebanon, and their surrogate forces. The Islamic and nationalist groups also enjoy a few concessions, especially in regard to their control over stragegic regions. For example, if the Suq-al Gharb region—which is 5 kilometers from 'Ba'bada', the presidential palace, is toppled by these forces, then, there would be major changes in the political equations.

Papers Comment on 'Ubayd, Israel, U.S. Policy

LD1408081289 Tehran IRNA in English
0755 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug 14, IRNA—Two morning dailies Monday commented on the situation in Lebanon, the Zionist kidnapping of Lebanese religious leader sheikh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and its aftermath.

JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI referring to the July 28 abduction of 'Ubayd and two of his relatives said Israel must pay dearly for its crime.

To make it pay, the daily said a Lebanese alim drove through an Israeli military convoy with a car laden with explosives causing a number of casualties.

Hizballah of Lebanon had warned the Zionist regime that the attack was the first in a series of retaliatory actions.

"The Zionist occupiers must know well that any acts of savagery and any crime will have a severe consequence and there is no way out of this for Israel," it said

The English-language Daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noted that U.S. President George Bush handling of the issue has won him praise in the U.S. for his handling the hostage crisis so far.

But it said stability would not return to the region until Washington changed its policy towards Israel, curbed Tel Aviv's terrorism in the region, worked for the release of Muslim hostages and freed frozen Iranian assests.

"Otherwise, if President Bush sticks to the traditional U.S. policy (of all-out support for Israel), then the region would never see stability and U.S. interests in the Middle East... would continue to be at stake," the paper said in an editorial.

Papers on Hostage Crisis, U.S. Position

LD1508082589 Tehran IRNA in English
0802 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—An Iranian daily regarded the U.S. intention to impose its will on Iran vis-a-vis the hostage issue as an act of "insolence and impudence" that no genuinely sovereign state could accept.

"To be asking the Islamic Republic of Iran's intercession in a case involving lives, and at this juncture is both strange and hypocritical," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

The English daily said although Iran has some influence over the Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon, yet the "hostage crisis is a purely Lebanese issue."

The American officials had not played their cards all that well, vis-a-vis the Iranian nation, the daily said.

"For Mr Bush to be pinning hopes on Iran's assistance without respecting Tehran's conditions is wishful thinking."

Iran rejected holding of indirect talks on Lebanese hostage crisis with Pakistan as the mediating party because of the "insolent tone" of America's message.

Iran opposed the idea of "ransom-for-hostages" and releasing billions of dollars of Iranian money frozen in American banks "will be taken only as a good will gesture," the English-language daily stressed.

The daily said the Iranian nation followed Imam Khomeyni's view that there could never be any realistic relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed.

Both JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and ABRAR Persian dailies underlined that leader Ayatollah Khamene'i's rejection of talks with the U.S. was to reiterate that the late Imam Khomeyni's line would remain Iran's policy.

"The West and their agents were optimistic in that such developments would culminate in the adoption of what they refer to as a realistic policy," ABRAR said.

"The concept of a 'realistic policy' virtually means to accept oppression and keep silent vis-a-vis tyranny and coercion. Otherwise, the Islamic Republic is realistic in the real sense of the word and has constantly adopted such policies towards the realities of the world," it underlined.

It referred to the recent development in the region particularly in the aftermath of the Zionist abduction of the Lebanese Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the consequent execution of American hostage Lt. Col. William Higgins by the Lebanese captors.

ABRAR said the U.S. asked Iran to exert its influence among the Lebanese combatants to set free the Western hostages and that certain American officials had asserted that the U.S. was taking some steps to release Iranian assests frozen by Washington in 1980.

"The return of Iranian assets and properties is the indisputable and lawful right of the Islamic Republic and it is not something to be bargained," it emphasized.

"In its tradition of political propagation, the U.S...repeatedly urges other world governments to follow international rights and regulations while in reality Washington itself is the greatest offender... which has usurped and confiscated the assets of a nation (Iran)."

"If the U.S. releases Iranian assets, pays compensation to the families of 290 passengers (who were killed aboard an Iranian civil plane when it was attacked by the U.S. warship over the Persian Gulf a year ago), stops to back the Zionist regime, brings an end to its policy of intervention in the internal affairs of Lebanon and helps release the Jibshit Friday prayer leader Shaykh 'Ubayd, then one may consider all these as Washington's good will," ABRAR stressed. "Otherwise it would be funny to set conditions for opening negotiations with Iran," it added.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also shared the same views. "The U.S. has robbed the properties of the Islamic Republic but it terms Iran's logical claim to the assets as 'blackmail'. It is very disgraceful for a state to commit robbery and then accuse those who ask for its return of blackmail."

"The U.S. must comprehend that the era of bullying and brawling has come to end... Washington must confess that its bullying policy against the Islamic revolution has completely defeated [as received] and reached a dead-end."

The paper believed the U.S. and all those who consider coercion and barbarism as a policy must first become "civilized."

"But is such a thing possible? This is something that entirely concerns them," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI concluded.

Tehran TV Comments on Hostage Issue
NC1208144789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] Following the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd by the Zionist regime and the reaction to this act, hostage taking was once again highlighted this week. The intervention of one country or another and UN involvement has turned the situation into a crisis, the repercussions of which continue to be discussed in political and diplomatic circles.

The crisis started when Israeli commandos carried out an act of aggression deep inside Lebanese territory, violating the sovereignty of this country and abducting Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, one of south Lebanon's religious leaders and the Friday imam of Jibshit, together with two of his companions and took them to occupied Palestine.

To justify this act, some Zionist officials at first alleged that this act of brigandry was supported by the United States and Britain, and that despite their apparent criticisms, they had actually praised this operation by Tel Aviv.

Regardless of the truth of these allegations, in the developments that followed the execution of the U.S. Marine colonel and the threats to carry out similar acts against other hostages, one point was clarified: The Zionist regime was fully aware of the consequences of its act when it abducted the Lebanese clergyman.

Its linking this abduction to the fate of the Western hostages and its insistence on exchanging Shaykh 'Ubayd for the hostages were actually parts of a scenario aimed at fanning the flames of the hostage crisis and at internationalizing this issue.

It is clear that because of their adventuristic nature, the Zionist regime officials, by taking this step despite being well aware of its likely consequences, intended to create conditions under which they would not only obstruct developments in the Middle East that are contrary to their interests, but would also, by triggering and fanning the flames of this crisis, share their defeat on the political and international scene equally with others.

The fact that the abduction of the Friday imam of Jibshit by the regime occupying Palestine coincided with the presidential elections in our country is itself significant and reveals one of the Zionist regime's objectives in this abduction. The successful presidential elections and the referendum on the constitution elevated Iran to a high

position in the world of diplomacy; this is something which has always dissatisfied the Americans and the Zionists. This is why, by creating the hostage crisis, they tried to mar Iran's image. However, this attempt backfired and the adbuction of the Friday imam met with a negative reaction even from Israel's friends.

The emergence of prospects for unity among the national and Islamic forces in Lebanon after the Tehran meeting and the consolidation of Syria's position in the new balance of power on Lebanon's political scene were also elements that did not satisfy the Zionist regime.

Obviously, no one supports brutality and hostage taking, and no one can doubt that adbuction is an ugly, immoral, and incorrect act. But when international responsibility vis-a-vis the Zionists' blatant act of abduction and their continuous violations of the most basic human rights, as well as their flagrant disregard for a country's sovereignty, is ignored then retaliatory acts may be considered as the only alternative in self-defense.

Lebanon is a country whose sovereignty and the rights of its citizens have been repeatedly threatened. Power has been divided among numerous hostile groups and the natural right to self-defense is now manifested each day in a new form. The idea that a show of strength and exertion of pressure may save the life of a hostage or end crises of this nature has been proven wrong by the experience of the past years.

Definitely Higgins, in whose name the flames of the recent crisis were fanned, was not only a hostage and a victim of this incident, but Washington itself too is the hostage of a policy which, instead of protecting the interests of U.S. citizens, is affected by the negative repercussions of Tel Aviv's extremely ugly and inhuman acts.

Daily Says Velayati 'Likely' To Retain Post

LD1508063489 Tehran IRNA in English
0628 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is likely to retain his post when President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani officially takes over later this week, a newspaper here reported.

In selecting his ministers Hashemi-Rafsanjani would have to consider the views of the leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and those of the Majlis deputies in choosing his cabinet members, the TEHRAN TIMES noted.

The paper quoting political observers said Velayati enjoyed confidence of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and also secured the highest number of votes in the Majlis when he was chosen foreign minister last time. All ministerial nominations need Majlis approval.

"...Dr Velayati's choice may be regarded as a near certain," the paper said.

It said present Post, Telephone and Telegraph Minister Mohammad Gharazi or Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami were also possible nominees.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Last Majlis as Speaker

LD1508085189 Tehran IRNA in English
0840 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—President elect Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired the last Majlis session as speaker here Tuesday.

He will resign from his post in the Majlis today to pave the way for the election of a new speaker.

He said Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i will be president until the end of his official term on October 8 unless he steps down before then.

Rafsanjani elected the fourth president in July the 28 election, expressed hope the new speaker would be elected Thursday.

Meanwhile in its first session after the summer recess, the Majlis Wednesday approved several articles of a bill for the merger of the Ministries of Defense and Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

The bill was presented to the Majlis last May.

Musavi Speaks to Cabinet on New Government

LD1408190189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] In today's cabinet meeting which was devoted to bidding farewell to members of the cabinet and reviewing the highlights of the government during the past 8 years, Mr Musavi, head of the cabinet, referred to events of the past years: Truly, the government, during its term, obtained all its strength from the firmness and guidances of the imam, and the government's greatest pride was to follow his eminence's line.

The head of the cabinet then referred to the government's experiences during its 8 years and mentioned the government's stands and its steadfastness to the line of the imam and perseverence in the face of difficulties. He said: I deem it necessary to say that during the hardest days of this period, I never observed any sense of weakness toward the superpowers or other problems or difficulties among cabinet members.

Mr Musavi cited investments that brought success to the government and attracted the confidence of the imam and nation and led to steadfastness in the face of difficulties and pointed to the harmony among the members of the government. He said: Spirituality and

faith governed the work of the members of the government, and brothers discharged their duties with great difficulties and even with personal problems although no one was aware of such problems and perhaps they imagined the contrary. The head of the cabinet added: It is the duty of all of us to assist the future government and we know more than anyone it is not easy to serve in government. The future executives of the government need assistance and should be encouraged and supported. At the same time, if the government is able to advance a certain task, it is due to the support given to it by the people.

At the end of his remarks, the head of the cabinet emphasized: The most immediate assistance to be given to the future government is not to allow—due to problems related to the changeover—a backlog of tasks from the past few weeks to be loaded onto the future executive officials and managers as they start their activities. Thus, it is necessary that the higher officials of all government departments—in the time that remains of the government's responsibility—confront problems more actively than at any other time. And the government too—until the new cabinet obtains a vote of confidence—will continue to hold its regular sessions.

In today's cabinet meeting, a number of proposals concerning executive organs were also passed.

Kho'iniha Addresses 'Ashura Gathering

LD1208145589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'iniha, prosecutor general, at mourning ceremonies for Imam Husayn at the Khomeyni shrine near Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] The epic sage of 'Ashura culminating in the heart-rending martyrdom of Aba 'Abdallah al-Husayn, peace be upon him, and the martyrdom of his holiness's family and helpers, has given rise to many revolutionary movements and uprisings. From the year 681, when this tragic event took place, to the present, the history of Islam has witnessed many exciting revolutionary uprisings of self-sacrificing men and women whose sole motivation for their revolution and the main inspiration for their movement was the epic saga of 'Ashura.

Today, in our own time, we are witnessing another valuable legacy from that historic saga, namely the Islamic revolution of Iran. One of the consequences of this Islamic revolution has been the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran. A great deal has been said about the reasons behind the movement and uprising of Aba 'Abdallah [Imam Husayn]. Taking my inspiration from this glorious gathering organized to mourn the martyrdom of Aba 'Abdallah beside the holy shrine of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], God's peace be upon him, I wish to make use of some of the remarks of this esteemed imam to analyze some of the details and layers of that glorious historic revolution, the saga of 'Ashura. [passage omitted]

If in our past history it was difficult to study the motivations behind Aba 'Abd-Allah's uprising, today by studying this glorious Islamic uprising which we have before us, with its divine, unprecedented imamate and leadership which is again before us, and by studying the methods used by the imamate and leadership of this revolution, w can easily discover the reasons and motivations behind the uprising of 'Ashura. You have frequently and repeatedly heard that our illustrious imam, may God sanctify his soul, in the course of the revolution often used to say: Our aim in this uprising is the obedience of God's decrees and acting according to God's injunctions.

We are analyzing these words of the imam at a time when we have seen this uprising result in the establishment of a powerful government in this region. We are studying the reasons behind this uprising when we see that the Islamic revolution of Iran has become the standard-bearer of a profound and far-reaching struggle throughout the world against world arrogance and against the Great Satan. However, despite the fact that the true reason behind this uprising and the real motivation behind this divine movement has been to act in accordance with our religious duty and discharge our religious duty.

Perhaps it is difficult for contemporary historians, for sociologists and for others who study such events to digest the meaning of remarks by the imam, a leader who guided a movement, brought about a revolution, and as a result of this revolution established a government and set up a powerful republic. Nevertheless, in analyzing his movement, the imam said that we have risen in order to act according to our religious duty, not for the sake of any other sacred goal which in itself could also form the motivation for an uprising, such as fighting against world arrogance, saving the deprived people from the oppression of the oppressors, creating a great, inspiring movement in human history. The imam, however, in analyzing his movement always said: We have risen in order to discharge our religious duty.

If we could properly evaluate and understand these remarks by the imam, we would then realize why the uprising of Aba 'Abdallah al-Husayn has had such profound, far-reaching, extensive, and immortal repercussions in the world. If we could properly understand these remarks by the imam, we would be able to understand how it was that a cleric—an old man who was busy teaching and discussion and training of religious seminarists in a corner of the city of Qom, without any means and tools which are used by ordinary revolutions in the world today, without reliance upon any power which

today's revolutions ultimately rely on to stage a revolution and a struggle against another power—how was it that this cleric, without the slightest assistance from abroad, without any means which are seemingly necessary for the success of a revolution, succeeded in leading such a profound world revolution, in bringing into being such a steadfast ummah and left it as his legacy to history, and then ascended to the presence of God.

This analysis by the imam himself, peace be upon him, is an analysis which is more correct and more apt than any other analysis. In describing his Islamic revolution which led to the establishment of this divine government and this Islamic Republic, which produced so many international consequences, a revolution which delivered such a blow upon the world's greatest satanic power, as the result of which it is still in a swoon, a revolution which all alone stood against the East and the West, a revolution which shattered this centuries-old myth that without reliance upon a world power people could not rise against another power, despite the fact that the imam gave rise to this miracle of history, despite the fact that today all the revolutions in the world are under the influence of the Islamic revolution of our illustrious imam, and despite all the consequences of this revolution, nevertheless, the imam says that the goal is higher than these things. Our goal in our revolution was acting in accordance with our religious duty. We are God's servants. We are God's slaves. The ultimate and greatest goal for a human being is to ascend to the pinnacle of servitude to God, to rise to the station of becoming God's servant. If we launched a movement, an uprising, a resurgence, a revolution only in order to act in accordance with our religious duty, then in that case we have achieved the greatest aim of a divine revolution. The secret of the amazing and miraculous victory of the imam was in this fact. This is also the characteristic of all the imams who have been sent to the people by God. This is the rare characteristic of divine leaders, not the characteristic of any leader in any revolution, and not the characteristic of any revolution. [Koranic passage omitted]

These followers which we have sent you—these imams were our servants, and they placed their utmost endeavor toward serving God. If a revolution begins with such an aim; if a revolution pursues its path with such an aim, then the same incident as that of the 'Ashura recurs. [passage omitted]

Can you name a revolution which has remained alive after approximately 1,350 years, like that of the 'Ashura? That revolution and the epic of 'Ashura still roars, so much so that in the 20th century, contrary to all the assessments made by the world's politicians, contrary to all the assessments of the arrogant powers, and in contradiction to all the support given to the taghut of Iran [derogatory term used to describe the Pahlavi regime], one of Husayn's offspring, under the same conditions—that is, our great imam—may God's benediction be upon him—revolted under such conditions.

All politicians and friends of his holiness [Imam Husayn] warned him that he should not revolt against Yazid. You do not have sufficient men—only a few and their wives and children—to fight the huge damned army of Yazid mobilized by Mo'avieh [the Caliph]. Similarly, when Imam Khomeyni began his revolt in the early sixties in Qom, he was warned by all his friends out of friendliness, and all those who bore malice, to dissuade him from this revolt. They said: How can a seminarian from Qom—a place which is not officially recognized by anyone in the world—like you, intend to stand against the shah's power, a power which is backed by the United States?

Yes! If the imam had revolted in that period in order to establish an Islamic government, those warnings would have been made in wisdom, just as Imam Husayn was warned by 'Ibn-Abbas and a number of his other friends. But in reply imam, would say: I am pursuing the path of God, and if I am killed on this path, I will have lost nothing, and if I am not killed, then I will have succeeded in aborting Yazid's rule and enlivening the prophet's. I thank God for whichever way he chooses for us.

If that revolt was for God, that very pursuit of God's path is an aim, is a movement. And if a revolution is in pursuit of the path of God, then that revolution remains eternal in history, just as the revolt of 'Ashura, one of the legacies of which is the revolution precipitated by the great man who lies in this immaculate shrine—a man who considered his revolution a reflection of the 'Ashura revolt. [crowd chants support]

The imam's Islamic revolution was for the purpose of establishing an Islamic state. There is no doubt that one of the valuable legacies of this revolution has been the profound and extensively world-wide confrontation with the global arrogance, specifically the United States. There is no doubt about that. Today, neither the United States nor anyone in the world doubts that if there is any revolution, any movement, any nation, or any leadership who has managed to revolt against imperialism, Western arrogance and the United States, it is most certainly that of the Islamic revolution of Iran. No one doubts this. If an authority in contemporary history has managed to mobilize a revolution and an ummah—not the Iranian nation, but the Islamic ummah, throughout the world—against the arrogance, it has been the authority of the Islamic revolution of Iran, which, thanks be to God, still continues today.

Shortly before the demise of the imam, which authority and revolution was in the world, that in the name of defending the honor and heritage of Muslims, and in the name of protecting the beloved Prophet's name—may God's blessing be upon him and his scion—issued a fatwa [religious decree] on killing an evil, corrupt and hireling pen-pusher named Salman Rushdie, even though both friends and foes warned that this fatwa was against the interests of the Iranian nation and country?

But the imam's objective for the revolt was the implementation of the religious obligation, and not the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If the objective was the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, then we would have to safeguard it, even at the cost of relinquishing the values and principles of our revolution. The Islamic Republic is one of the legacies of the religious obligations. If an evil usurper affronts the beloved Prophet of Islam, then the leader of the revolution and the divine heritage should issue the edict of his death sentence, and call on all the Muslims to kill this evil being, even if the entire world confronts that leadership, system, and the Islamic Republic.

The imam says I must carry out my religious duty. If today in the world, a rude daring filthy element insults the honorable messenger of Islam, who more appropriate than the imam, what more appropriate than Iran's Islamic Revolution, to defend the honorable messengers' heritage? This is a duty. This duty must be carried out. This religious duty must be applied. We see that the imam carried out this duty. Influenced by this duty, which has been applied and carried out, Muslims from Europe and other places in the world, scattered Muslims, all became united, and suddenly we saw in England a unique and unprecedented move. A gathering of around 200,000 Muslims demonstrated in defense of Islam's prophet. This is one of the signs of the religious duty being applied. My brothers and sisters, the more attention we pay to this meaningful point which our honorable imam, peace be upon him, said in the analysis of this revolution, the more and more we reach into the depths of it.

Where is a revolution possible in the boundaries of an oppressed country, within the boundaries of a country that in any direction you go through the borders, there are countries attached to the East or the West? In the international arena, all powers supported the shah and were against the Islamic Revolution of Iran. What goal and what revolutionary substance managed to make this divine movement so emotional, so heroic, so deep and vast that today the imam, God's benedictions be upon him, is the imam all across the world and not only in Iran, not only in the Islamic countries, because this revolution began to carry out the religious duty. The imam's achievement, all of our revolution leadership's achievement was to bring our people nearer to this goal. The Iranian people, on their own, meekly stood up for God; they said revolution for the implementation of the religious duty, because their imam had stood up for the implementation of the religious duty, despite pressures from the world, during the time before the victory of the revolution and after the victory of the revolution, and despite the fact that there was no clear view for the apparent goals of the revolution.

Because the imam stood up to obey God's orders, the youth also rose up to respond to God's command. They filled the fronts to carry out their religious duty. They suffered and still suffer the economic pressures for the sake of the implementation of religious duty. Because of the implementation of the religious duty, where a nation could become so resistant against so much economic pressure, so many financial problems, these Behesht-e Zahra-ha [the name of the graveyards across the country since the Iran-Iraq war martyrs were buried] in every town and near every town—all these agonies, all the losses and martyrdom of the country's dignitaries—they [dignitaries] are still standing forcefully.

Can a revolution create so much resistance in order to establish a government? Can a revolution for freedom and independence create so much depth in the soul of the people? Yes, freedom is a holy thing, independence is a holy thing, but most important of all is the implementation of the religious duty.

If, one by one, we, the Muslim ummah, can bring ourselves to this top revolutionary goal, if we can educate and construct ourselves with such inspirations, we have continued the path of the imam. Our honorable nation, and all Muslim nations, and all revolutionaries across the world, our brave Palestinian youths, the brave Muslim youth, Muslims of Afghanistan, and other Islamic countries, all must know that the continuation of the imam's path means self-construction and education to the point that one implements any work in order to carry out the religious duty, in order to respond to the religious command, and for God's satisfaction. Then we are confident that we have carried out our duty for God's sake, then God will help too. "If you are for God, then God will be for you too." [passage omitted] Today the master of this shrine, [Khomeyni] the master of this immaculate tomb, the master of this illuminous dome, is honored all over the world. You and I, our Iranian brother and sister Muslims, cannot realize the extent of this honor. But if you go outside the borders of this country and to the farthest parts of the world, then you realize what the imam's honor means and you realize how far the imam's imamate has reached.

Then you will understand how far the imam's imamate has gone. This would not have been so but for the fact that, as the imam said, he had risen in the performance of his divine duty. The imam carried out his divine duty and God gave freedom, independence and glory to the people who supported him.

Today, no important issue is raised, anywhere in the world, without the mention of Iran and the Islamic revolution of Iran. God assigned the governing of the Islamic Republic to the imam, that lonely and meek clergyman, who was under attack from all sides, and made him successful in creating a government, in overthrowing the 2,500 year-old monarchical system; but the imam did not rise for that. [passage omitted]

In my view, the most profound philosophy and motivation for the uprising of Imam Husayn was what our exalted imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's

paradise, stated as the philosophy, motivation, and cause of his own Islamic revolution; as he said, our revolution is a reflection of the 'Ashura revolution and rightly so. [Koranic verse omitted]

The greatest source of pride for Imam Husayn is that he was the best slave [bandeh] of God on earth; in the same way that the greatest source of pride for our imam of ummah was that he was the best slave, and he was the most qualified and sincere slave of God in his time. He succeeded in educating a nation to have such a motivation—so much so that this country's 14-year-old, 16-year-old youth, and old men of 90 years shared the same motivation in the revolution which the 'Ashura youth and old men shared. [Koranic verse, prayers omitted']

Satellite Cooperation With USSR Discussed

LD1408160989 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Details of an Irano-Soviet agreement on the use of telemetry and satellites were discussed by Soviet Commercial Attache Victor Borisov and head of Iran's Telemetry Center M. Jahedi, here Monday [14 August].

According to the pact, the relevant organizations in the two countries should provide necessary facilities for the exchange of data and research on natural resources through telemetry.

Borisov, saying that his country has made noticeable progress in the field of telemetry, announced his country's readiness for exchange of expertise with Iran.

He proposed that in view of different technology used by the two countries, Iranian and Soviet experts hold a seminar first to get acquainted with each other's capabilities.

Jahedi suggested that experts of the two countries inspect telemetry facilities of each other.

Freedom Movement Criticizes Amendments

LD1408213889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Mehdi Bazargan, the figure in charge of the Freedom Movement of Iran, has issued a declaration criticizing the constitutional amendments and terming them as antinationalist and a violation of people's rights. He stated that these amendments are intended to further consolidate the despotic rule. It is worth noting that even though the Freedom Movement is active within the laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic and is considered to be an acceptable opposition, yet, in view of the antidemocratic nature of the elections and referendum concerning constitutional amendments similar [word indistinct] parties and progressive organizations of the country refrained from participating in these elections and referendum and boycotted them.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Delivers Independence Day Speech

BK1408101989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0611 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Speech by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the national flag raising ceremony at Parliament House in Islamabad on 14 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most beneficent and merciful. My elders, brothers, and sisters. Peace be upon you. We have gathered here today to celebrate the most important day of our history, our Independence Day anniversary, and to hoist this green and white flag, which identifies our country and is the symbol of our independence. We have gathered here to celebrate the anniversary of our freedom, which was won by the Muslims of the subcontinent through their blood and sweat, lofty principles, and on the basis of the firm conviction of strength.

In the war of independence, eventually the conviction of strength and principles won. The truth is that in every delicate turning point of history, the strength of loyalty and principles of people have been victorious in our nation. Therefore, the people will never be wrong, be they poor or starving. Their thoughts and ideas will not be wrong. [applause] Our ancestors chose independence after much consideration. After careful thought, they decided to create an independent and sovereign state for themselves. It is our responsibility to always honor the legacy of our ancestors and the flag of this country.

Today, we salute the leader of the caravan of freedom, Qaid-i Azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah]. [applause] We pay tribute to his strong determination and lofty decisions which brought the Muslims of the subcontinent under one flag, one umbrella, one charter. He gathered all of them under one flag for the establishment of an independent state. The enemies of Qaid-i Azam were many, but he was not daunted by anyone. At that time there were certain people who did not believe that Pakistan would come into existence; that is why they called themselves the great infidels. But Qaid-i Azam confronted all his opponents and defeated them. [applause] He defeated his opponents not by atrocities and domination but by remaining within the limits of constitution and law.

Qaid-i Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was a national leader who belonged to this territory. He transpired the feelings of the people. He took up the task of liberating people from afflictions, fear, atrocities, and bondage. People considered him deserving of their confidence. In the elections, they voted for Pakistan and created their country. The Pakistan People's Party government considers itself the supporter of the ideas and thoughts of

Qaid-i Azam. [applause] In our country we would like to have parliamentary democracy, provincial autonomy, social and economic justice, and rule of law. We have full faith in God. We had confidence that our objective was right. As we were fighting for principles, we also had confidence that God would grant us victory. [applause]

On the occasion of our Independence Day, we proudly declare that we are the followers of a leader who gave us the lesson of faith, discipline, and unity. To me, the sacred duty of a people's government is to seek guidance from the ideals of Qaid-i Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan.

On this auspicious day, I announce the determination of our government to struggle for national unity, for protecting geographical frontiers, for the well-being of the people, and for peace in the country. [applause]

We are the representatives of the people and their voice. The power of the people is the source of our strength. Today, we have to remember that we are the people who have performed the miracle of establishing a new state. It is a matter of pride for me that I am addressing you on Independence Day as an elected prime minister. [applause] This honor is the outcome of the determination of our people and their consistent struggle. Today, our green crescent flag is fluttering in an atmosphere of democracy.

The 14th of August not only marks our day of independence; it is also the day on which our constitution was unanimously implemented. On this very day 16 years ago in 1973, the elected representatives of the people gave a constitution to the beloved country. The Constitution was signed by the elected representatives of all four provinces of the country. This parliament house was founded on this very day 15 years ago. This building is a symbol of democracy and also a token of popular rule. [applause]

Constitutions provide a guarantee for the existence of nations. Our Constitution is our life and soul. We are fortunate in that we have once again started walking on the path of the Constitution. We would like to uphold the Constitution. Our politics is not that of hatred and violence. We honor political differences. But these political differences should fall within constitutional limits. The Constitution clearly defines our rights and duties. It is the duty of all of us to sincerely fulfill our individual constitutional obligations and to strengthen the federation. The federal government should fulfill its responsibilities while remaining within the constitutional limits.

On the occasion of our Independence Day today, I would like to pay tribute to the freedom fighters who established Pakistan through sacrificing their lives. [applause] We salute the warriors who sacrificed their lives to light the torch of freedom in the dark era of oppression and coercion. We pay homage to our valiant soldiers who defend our frontiers from the snowy regions of Siachen to the coasts of Karachi. [applause] We salute the working people of every part of the federation who defeated the oppressive forces. [applause]

But I would like to talk particularly to our country's youth. Today, I would like to remind my country's youth that it is now their duty to accomplish the concept of freedom that we set during the freedom struggle. The people's eyes are on you. I would like to inform you that probably no single section of society in human history faced such a heavy responsibility as that which has fallen on the educated youth of our poor and illiterate country. What is regrettable is that the discord sowed by the dictatorship has polluted the blood of a large number of youths with the poison of violence, prejudice, and hatred.

The spirit among the youth for changing the world is a national asset. This spirit, this aspiration, will certainly not survive if inflicted with violence. The war to change the world is fought with men's intellects. It is the war of ideologies and not of arms. Our war for Pakistan was also fought with ideologies and democratic principles and not with weapons, because Pakistan needed a foundation of social justice and fundamental civilian freedoms, and not of hatred and prejudice.

On the occasion of Independence Day today, I request my countrymen to become imbued with a spirit of unity, faith, and organization; to rise up against greed and personal interests; and to unitedly build this great nation. [applause] Come, let us start a jihad against the evils of the society. Come, let us unitedly resolve our economic problems. Come, let us set up political organizations which are based on principles, which are based on the rule of the constitution and law.

Today, every Pakistani should think about what he can do to make Pakistan a great nation; how much time and energy he can expend to eliminate poverty and hunger from the country and to share the sufferings of his countrymen; and how much he can sacrifice to accomplish these objectives.

Please look at the children who are deprived of clothes, the women who are disappointed with their future, and the youth whose faces have become pale in the search for jobs. Please look at the helpless parents who cannot bear even the expenses of medical treatment for their children. Think of the atmosphere that is created by crimes, and then question yourself: Is this what we want? No, not at all. I therefore ask you, my sisters, my brothers, and elders, to come and march forward with thought and action. Try to have good vision and draw your courage to protect your faith.

Come, march along with us to make Pakistan, which is our motherland, a nation that will enjoy a prominent place in the community of nations. [applause] Come, march forward with us to make our nation a truly independent and sovereign nation; to break the shackles of slavery, poverty, hunger, and disease; and to move

forward on the path of national welfare, a path illuminated by the great struggle of the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. Come, let us make Pakistan a champion of the welfare of Islam. Long Live Pakistan! [applause]

UK House of Commons Speaker Departs for Delhi

BK1408112589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] The speaker of the British House of Commons, Mr Bernard Weatherhill, has said future of democracy in Pakistan is bright and hoped that the democratic institutions would continue to flourish and strengthen. Talking to newsmen at the Lahore Airport today before leaving for New Delhi at the end of his visit to Pakistan, he appreciated the political institutions which were shaping up, the smooth running of the parliamentary government, the opposition, and the role of a free press. He said he held very useful talks on bilateral matters with the president and the prime minister in Islamabad.

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Send Greetings to India

BK1508044289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] On the occasion of India's Independence Day today, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto have congratulated President Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, respectively.

In a message to Venkataraman, the president said: We heartily wish for friendly and good neighborly relations between the two countries based on sovereignty, equality, and mutual benefit. It will benefit not only the peoples of the two countries but will also help in promoting peace and stability in the region.

In her message to Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister said: The democratically elected government in Pakistan attaches great importance to friendship and cooperation with India, which is essential for the benefit of the two countries and for peace and stability in the two countries.

On the occasion of the national day of the Republic of Korea today, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto have sent congratulatory messages to President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun.

Bhutto Condemns Attack on Bangladesh Leader

BK1408153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has condemned the cowardly attempt on the life of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Wajed of Bangladesh. In a message to the Bangladesh leader, the prime minister wished her long life.

Malaysian Defense Group Arrives for Visit

BK1308133489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] A 17-member Malaysian Armed Forces defense college team headed by Brigadier General Datuk (Mohamed Ali Bin Bolan) arrived in Rawalpindi today. It will visit various defense organizations, installations, and training institutions in different cities.

Sri Lanka

ENDLF Urges Proclamation of Separate Nation

BK1108163289 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 5 Aug 89 p 5

[Text] Madras, 5 August. The Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front—ENDLF- has said that if the Delhi talks [between India and Sri Lanka] fail, the proclamation of Tamil Eelam will be the only lasting solution.

The statement issued in Madras by Ramaraj, Executive Committee member of the ENDLF says:

If the ongoing talks between India and Sri Lanka do not yield any results, the proclamation of Tamil Eelam will be the lasting solution to protect our people and our soil. It is doubtful whether the Sri Lankan Government, which has not yet granted any devolution of powers as per the Indo-Sri Lanka accord signed on 29 July 1987, will implement it through talks. Whenever a critical situation arises in the southern part of Sri Lanka, Premadasa enters into talks with India so as to protect his position. Therefore, we ask the Government of India not to give further opportunities of this sort, and to grant permission to the Tamil National Council to proclaim Tamil Eelam in order to protect the Tamil people from annihilation. We will have to take up arms again to protect our people if the Sinhalese army, which is now confined to barracks, comes out and joins the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in its brutal attacks on our people. Therefore, it is the duty of India to prevent the occurrence of such a situation.

'Senior' Journalist Killed; Weekend Toll 22

BK1308080289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 13 (AFP)—Suspected Sinhalese rebels shot dead a senior television journalist near here Sunday, as continuing political violence across Sri Lanka left 22 people dead, officials said.

Two gunmen believed to be from the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) shot Kulasiri Amaratunga, 62, news editor of state-run Rupavahini Television station at his home in Ratmalana, they said.

A military spokesman here said Mr. Kulasiri was shot with a revolver at close rage and the gunmen escaped after threatening the victim's son and cutting telephone wires.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killing, but the spokesman said it appeared to be the work of "subversives," an official euphemism for the JVP.

The JVP was accused of killing the chief of the state-run radio station Thevis Guruge on July 23 and television announcer Premakeerthi de Alwis a week later. The radical rebel group has accused the state media of biased reporting and jamming its clandestine radio broadcast.

In other developments, Tamil guerrillas blew up an Indian Army convoy in northeastern Mullaitivu District Saturday, leaving seven soldiers and two of their own men dead, officials here said. Activists of the most powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed the convoy at Palampattu village by exploding a landmine, officials here said. They said the LTTE lost two men, including its political organiser for the area, self-styled Captain Dinesh. In a statement released from its London office, the LTTE said it captured five guns and ammunition from the victims.

In a separate incident, Indian troops shot dead two suspected LTTE men in neighbouring Thoppur village in Trincomalee District, officials said.

Suspected JVP men ambushed a police jeep in southern Imaduwa village Saturday killing an officer instantly and removed communication equipment from the victims, a military spokesman here said. He said two constables were seriously wounded in the attack. In a similar ambush in southern Alubowila village, a civilian accompanying a police patrol died when they came under a hail of bullets.

Troops opened fire at a vehicle which failed to stop at a road block in the Colombo's Narahenpita area Saturday, killing two passengers and wounding several bystanders, the spokesman said.

Three bullet-riddled bodies were found Saturday in Padukka, near here, while four more with stab wounds were recovered in northwestern Puttalam District and southern Kalutara District, he said.

The Sinhalese JVP is violently opposed to the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and has been accused of killing 2,500 rivals in the past two years. In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Rebels bombed a newspaper stall in central Kandy town Sunday wounding at least six people, the military spokesman said. The attack was to protest the sale of government newspapers, he said.

Meanwhile, hospital staff continued a strike for the third straight day demanding the release of two employees arrested by security forces, officials said. They said the main hospital in Colombo and the childrens' hospitals were affected by the strike.

JVP Issues Strike Call

BK1408090289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 14 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese militants called for a token strike to mark the Indian independence day Tuesday [15 August] as continuing political violence across Sri Lanka left 57 people dead over the weekend.

The radical Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) issued the work stoppage call in posters and leaflets distributed clandestinely here Monday, witnesses and officials said.

The Sinhalese militant group is violently opposed to the presence of some 44,000 Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's north-east under a bilateral peace pact which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign in the area.

The posters asked private bus operators to support the strike call by stopping their services Tuesday. Previous strike calls by the group have met with success.

The weekend victims included seven Indian soldiers killed by the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and a senior television journalist shot dead by suspected JVP men.

Military officials said the worst violence was reported from southern Udawalawe area where 14 people had been hacked to death in four separate incidents late Saturday.

Eleven more people were killed in similar circumstances in central Laggala area Sunday, a military spokesman said. No one claimed responsibility for the murders, most of which were committed during a night curfew currently in force. The other victims were killed in separate incidents in southern, central and north-eastern regions.

Meanwhile, a strike by hospital employees here continued for the fourth straight day Monday and officials said it was spreading to government-run health facilities in the provinces. An official said some 300 scheduled surgical operations at the Colombo General Hospital were put off Monday because of the trade union action and many patients left because there was no staff to attend to them. Hospital staff are demanding the release of two colleagues arrested by security forces for their suspected links with the JVP. [passage omitted]

Delhi TV Notes 47 Killed

BK1408015289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 47 [figure as heard] people have been killed in the continuing extremist-linked violence during the past 36 hours. Those killed include the chief news editor of the state-owned Rupavahini television network. Eighteen suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists had also been killed. Two gunmen, suspected to be members of the JVP, shot Kulasiri Amaratunga, chief news editor Rupavahini station, at his Colombo residence this morning.

According to a military spokesman, Mr Amaratunga was shot by a revolver at close range and the gunmen escaped after threatening his son and cutting telephone wires. Mr Amaratunga is the second senior TV staffer and third member of the official media to be killed by the Sinhalese militants since last month. Suspected JVP extremists killed at least nine persons in Matale District in central Sri Lanka during this period. Eighteen suspected JVP extremists were killed by a vigilante group, Green Tigers, in (Ambilipitia) area of southern Sri Lanka on Saturday [12 August]. Officials said that JVP activists ambushed a police jeep at Imaduwa District yesterday, killing an inspector [of police] and wounding two constables.

JVP Attacks Military Families

BK1208120489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 12 (AFP)—Sinhalese rebels have focused their attacks on family members of police and security personnel as continued violence in Sri Lanka have left at least 13 people dead, the government said Saturday.

It said "subversives"—the official term for rebels of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front)—stormed the house of a policeman at Uggalboda in the western district of Kalutara and shot and stabbed to death his father, mother and a brother. The rebels then set fire to the house with the bodies inside, a government communique said. A relative who was also in the house escaped with stab injuries. It did not say when the incidents occurred, but officials said the information was based on a situation report by the security forces for the past 24 hours.

In another incident in Wadduwa, also in Kalutara, rebels shot dead the father of a police officer at his house.

At least eight rebel attacks on family members of service personnel had been reported last week.

The communique said seven civilians were killed in separate incidents elsewhere on the island, while two subversives were shot dead in an ambush laid by the security forces in the central area of Pupurassa. The forces recovered automatic rifles, shotguns, smoke bombs, swords, bombs and explosives in the operation, it added. They also rounded up 50 suspected subversives for questioning, the communique said.

Foreign Minister on Killing of Party Members

BK1108120989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] When Parliament met this morning [as heard], the minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, made a statement to the house. He said that complaints have been received by him from members of Parliament [MP's] to the effect that the United National Party [UNP] members, its supporters and innocent civilians are being brutally massacred in their respective areas. The MP's have told Mr Wijeratne that UNP-ers are being hunted down and killed. They are also being taken in illegal demonstrations by force. When such demonstrations are dispersed, it is the UNP-ers themselves who suffer. There is another system of giving the names of the UNP-ers to the police with various allegations and getting them harassed. The large majority of those who have been killed in the recent times are UNP-ers, the people who upheld and safeguarded democracy. Nine hundred and seventy-two UNP members and their supporters have been brutally murdered, 100 SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] members and supporters were also slain, 67 supporters and members of the United Socialist Alliance are among those brutally killed, 17 members and supporters of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya have also been killed.

Up to the end of July this year, subversives have killed 354 members of the security forces during a two year period. Those respected and prominent citizens in society—among them the Mahasangha [monk], media personnel, state and corporation sector officers, the security forces and the police—have been brutally massacred. Complaints have been made that vehicles with or without number plates are being used for committing these dastardly acts. As soon as people are recognized as government supporters, death warrants are issued to these individuals.

Mr Wijeratne also said that these unseen hands are being intimidated and forced to give up their involvement in political activities. [sentence as heard] Public servants are called upon to leave their jobs. The minister said that some of their parliamentary colleagues have already been deposed, while members of provincial councils—Pradesikh Sabha—and Gramodaya Mandalaya [Rural Development Council], have been likewise murdered. Some time their families have been totally eliminated.

He explained that it is very clear that there is a well-conceived plot to destroy those committed to a democratic form of government. The people hesitate to talk about this situation because of fear. He queried as to whether this was decent human behavior? He asked

whether both sides of the house should not unanimously condemn this reign of terror that has been inflicted on our people? He asked why only a few people venture to condemn in public this inhuman terror inflicted on the people? He said he would like to ask whether it is not the duty and responsibility of all democratic organizations to come together at least to make a joint appeal to the elements who indulge in this terror? Also to convince them of the futility of taking human lives to achieve their political objectives.

When proceedings began this morning, the leader of the opposition, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, said that some elements have began a program to collect identity cards of individuals causing great hardships to the public.

The foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, in reply to this said that a program has been arranged to issue a new identity card and to give a temporary identity card till these cards are reissued.

Meanwhile, the debate on the New Delhi discussions, which were postponed, began in the house today. The MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] member, Dinesh Gunawardene, expressing his views said that India first invaded Sri Lanka when it air dropped food and because of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord the Indian Peacekeeping Force arrived in the country. Mr Gunawardene recalled how his party and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the patriotic citizens demonstrated their opposition to the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement by a peaceful protest campaign. The setting up of provincial councils without a referendum aggravated the situation.

Mr Gunawardene said that the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna believed that no foreign assistance was required to solve the internal problems of the country.

Security Forces Arrest 133 'Subversives'
BK1208132089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] The security forces and the police continued their combing out operations to maintain law and order in the country. The security forces have arrested 133 suspected subversives during the last 24 hours. They have also recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition in the Gampaha, Kalutara, Kegalla, Kandy, Pollonaruwa, Galle, Matara and Hambantota Districts. At (Attadioya) in the Pollonaruwa District, the subversive military wing leader, named Prabha, was shot dead by security forces.

Government Measures To Protect Media Employees
BK1408142089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 14 Aug 89

(Text] Colombo, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government requisitioned two hostels here Monday [14 August] to accomodate employees of state-run radio and television stations who have been threatened by Sinhalese radicals, a senior official said.

The action came a day after gunmen believed to be from the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) shot dead senior television journalist Kulasiri Amaratunga at his home near here.

An official spokesman said the hostels at the privately-owned Sri Lanka Foundation Institute and the government-owned Agrarian Research and Training Institute were taken over to accomodate radio and television workers.

The employees, including journalists, at the Rupavahini Television Station and the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) have been asked to quit their jobs by the JVP which accuses the state media of biased reporting. The government had refused to accept resignations from employees of both radio and television stations under emergency laws now in force.

The requisitioned hostels are near radio and television stations in a fashionable residential area of Colombo. "We have got about 75 rooms in both hostels. These will be used to accomodate staff, including journalists, newsreaders and technicians essential to maintain our services," the spokesman said.

Several Sinhalese language and English newsreaders have refused to go on the air following threats. A televison presenter was gunned down on July 31 while the head of the SLBC was assassinated on July 23.

The spokesman said the Army and the Air Force were providing military personnel to read news while several government MP's [members of Parliament] too had agreed to send "talented volunteers."

The JVP is a violently anti-government group which has been accused of killing over 2,500 rivals in the past two years in a bid to seize power.

Provincial Minister Lauds Indian Forces
BK1308032089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, says that his government will go ahead with the program of rehabilitation and resettlement of the people affected in the ethnic disturbances in spite of various hurdles in the way.

In an interview to the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Sebastian Roberts, in New Delhi yesterday, he said a number of schemes have already been launched to help these unfortunate people who lost their homes and

livelihood. Housing schemes have been taken up in various places, including Mannar, Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa with the help of welfare agencies. Priority is also being given to health services as health centers in most of the rural areas have been damaged in the ethnic riots. Mr Perumal said various steps have been taken by his government to improve the education and other facilities.

Mr Perumal lauded the role played by the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in restoring the essential services in the province. He said the medical facilities provided by the PKF at a very crucial time will be ever remembered by his people. The help given by the PKF in repairing roads, power stations and communication centers will also go a long way in mitigating the sufferings of the people of the Northeastern Province, he added.

Meanwhile, all educational institutions, including schools and colleges, will reopen tomorrow in the province. Official sources told our correspondent in Trincomalee this morning that the step has been taken despite several problems to enable the students to continue their studies. The sources further said that in view of the better situation now prevailing in the northeast due to PKF vigilance, faculty members have been asked to report to their respective centers by tomorrow to resume academic activities.